



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

SPEECHES

UC-NRLF



\$B 296 437

BY

THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE,

VICEROY AND GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA.

VOL. II.

1891—1894.



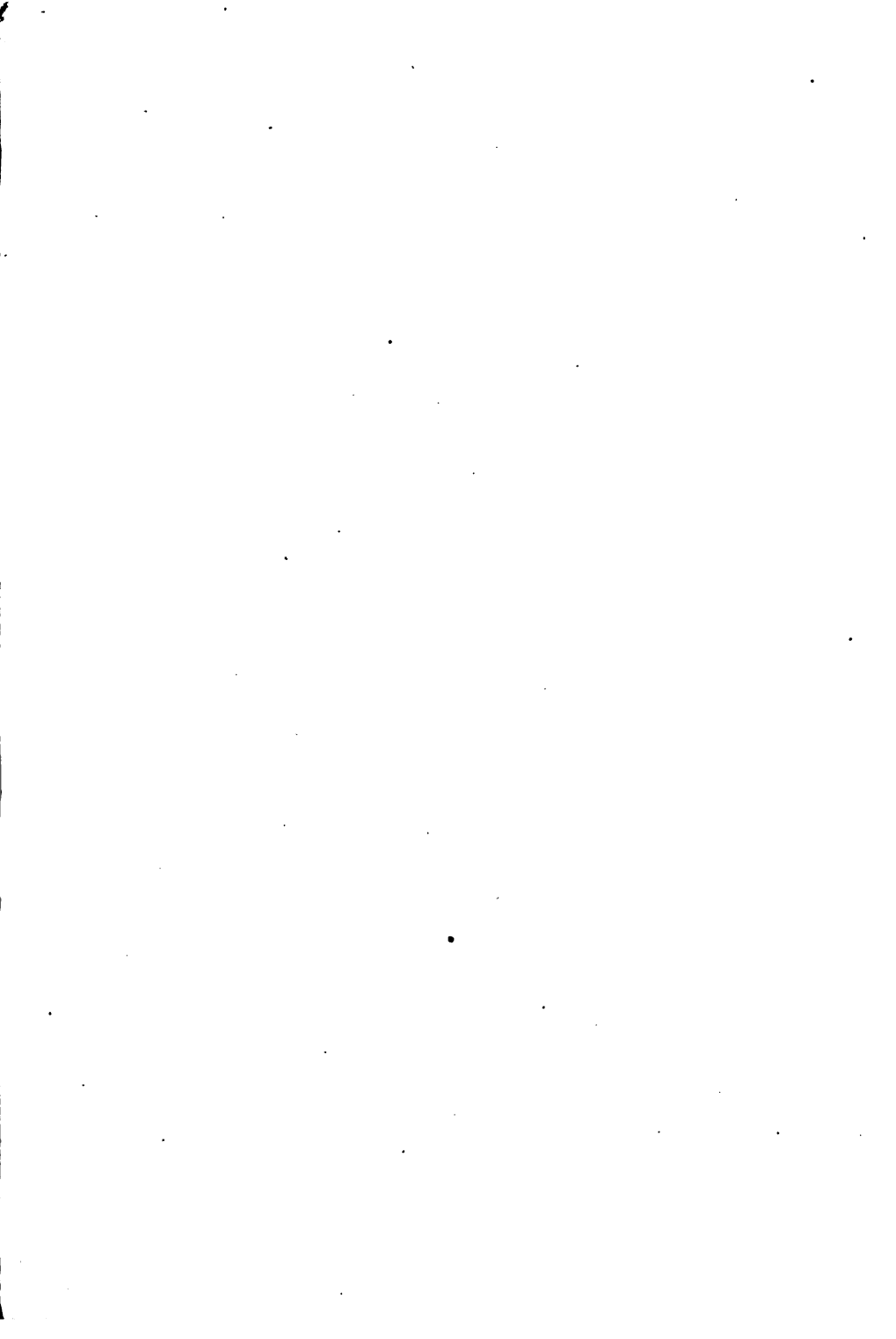
CALCUTTA:

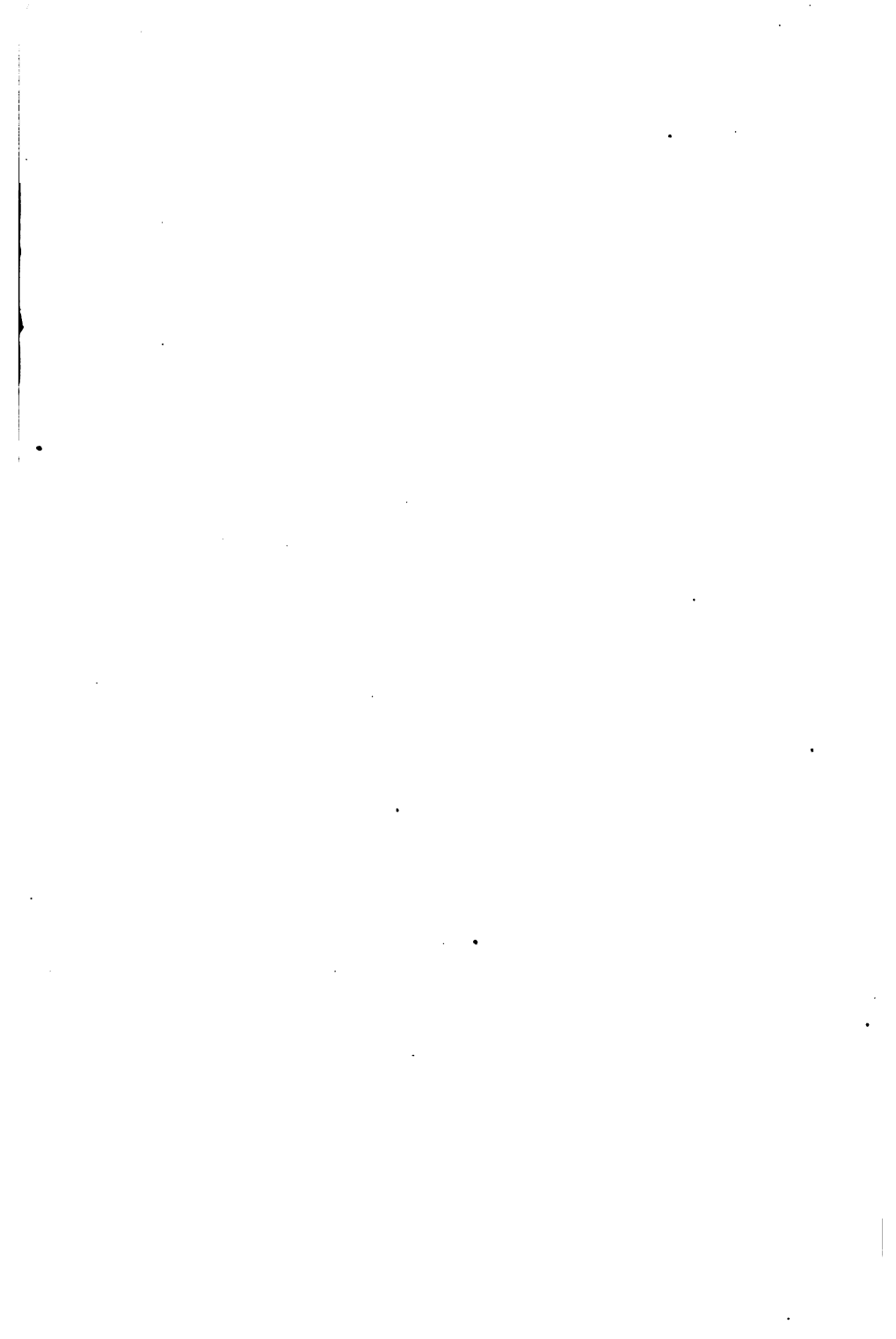
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING, INDIA.

1894.

GIFT OF
HORACE W. CARPENTIER







SPEECHES

BY

THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE

VICEROY AND GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA.

OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF
CALCUTTA.

VOL. II.

1891—1894.



CALCUTTA:

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING INDIA.

1894.

IS479
.8
A4
v.2

TO VIND
ABROUO

Carpenter

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
ST. ANDREW'S DINNER, CALCUTTA	369
UNVEILING THE DUFFERIN STATUE	382
DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT THE ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, CALCUTTA	387
CONVOCAION OF THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY	391
UNVEILING LADY DUFFERIN'S PORTRAIT	400
MEETING OF THE COUNTESS OF DUFFERIN'S FUND	401
PRESENTATION OF NEW COLORS TO THE BUFFS	404
ADDRESS OF WELCOME AT KUCH BEHAR	406
LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE LANSDOWNE HALL AT KUCH BEHAR	408
DINNER AT KUCH BEHAR	410
DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES TO THE CALCUTTA PRESIDENCY VOLUN- TEERS	411
OPENING THE TANSA WATER WORKS, BOMBAY	415
DINNER AT BHOPAL,	425
ADDRESS FROM THE POONA CITY MUNICIPALITY	426
BANQUET AT HYDERABAD	429
ADDRESS FROM THE PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION OF SECUNDERABAD	438
ADDRESS FROM THE MYSORE MUNICIPALITY	440
BANQUET AT MYSORE	441
ADDRESS FROM THE MYSORE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY	446
ADDRESSES FROM THE SOUTH MYSORE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION AND THE COORG PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	448
ADDRESS FROM THE COORGS	452
ADDRESS FROM THE SRINGRI GURU OF MYSORE	455
DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT THE MAHARANI GIRLS' SCHOOL, MYSORE	456
ADDRESS FROM THE CITY MUNICIPALITY, BANGALORE	459
ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS OF THE CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION OF BANGALORE	461
LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF MR. MOODELLIAR'S ORPHAN- AGE AT BANGALORE	465
ADDRESS FROM THE MADRAS MUNICIPALITY	567
MADRAS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE	469
PRESIDENCY COLLEGE, MADRAS	471
ANJUMAN WORKSHOPS, MADRAS	473
DEPUTATIONS AT MADRAS	475
EURASIAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN ASSOCIATION, MADRAS	483
ADDRESS FROM THE MAHOMEDAN COMMUNITY, MADRAS	484
ADDRESS FROM THE LANDHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION OF MADRAS	485
PACHAIYAPPA COLLEGE, MADRAS	487

	PAGE.
DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT THE CALCUTTA FREE SCHOOL	490
THE PETIT BARONETCY BILL	494
CONVOCAION OF THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY	495
THE EXCHANGE QUESTION. DEPUTATION FROM THE SERVICES	502
RULES UNDER THE INDIAN COUNCILS ACT, 1892	509
DEPUTATION FROM THE INDIAN CURRENCY ASSOCIATION	516
COUNTRESS OF DUFFERIN FUND	521
DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES TO THE CALCUTTA PRESIDENCY VOLUNTEERS	526
CONSTITUTION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS	529
SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS	543
FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1893	549
PETITIONS PRESENTED AT REWAH	559
INDIAN COINAGE AND PAPER CURRENCY BILL	567
DINNER AT THE UNITED SERVICE CLUB, SIMLA	579
FAREWELL BALL TO THE VICEROY AND LADY LANSDOWNE, SIMLA	590
FAREWELL ADDRESS AT SIMLA	594
ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL BOARD OF AGRA	598
ADDRESS OF WELCOME AT RANGOON	606
DURBAR AT RANGOON	608
ADDRESS FROM CERTAIN BURMAN RESIDENTS OF RANGOON ON TEMPERANCE	610
ADDRESS FROM THE KAREN RESIDENTS OF RANGOON	612
MEMORIAL FROM BENGALI HINDU RESIDENTS OF RANGOON	613
MEMORIAL FROM CERTAIN BURMAN RESIDENTS OF RANGOON	614
UNVEILING THE BURMA SERVICES MEMORIAL	615
MEMORIAL FROM THE RANGOON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	618
MEMORIAL FROM THE RANGOON BAR	624
ADDRESS OF WELCOME AT MANDALAY	628
MEMORIAL FROM CERTAIN RESIDENTS OF MANDALAY	630
DURBAR AT MANDALAY	633
ADDRESS FROM BURMESE RESIDENTS AT BHAMO	636
MEMORIAL FROM THE CHINESE AT BHAMO	638
ADDRESS TO KACHIN CHIEFS AT BHAMO	642
SMALL CAUSE COURT BILL	645
ADDRESS FROM THE CENTRAL MAHOMEDAN ASSOCIATION	646
ADDRESS FROM THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPALITY	649
FAREWELL BALL AT THE TOWN HALL, CALCUTTA	652
ADDRESS FROM THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY	659
DINNER AT THE ROYAL EXCHANGE	663
ADDRESS FROM THE MAHOMEDAN LITERARY SOCIETY	694
ADDRESS FROM THE SIKH COMMUNITY	697
ADDRESS FROM THE TALUQDARS OF OUDH	699
DINNER AT BELVEDERE	702
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	706

ST. ANDREW'S DINNER, CALCUTTA.

[The Annual St. Andrew's Dinner at Calcutta was held at the Town Hall on Monday evening the 30th November, and was, in point of numbers, the largest gathering of the kind that had taken place in any previous year. The Viceroy was present as the guest of the evening, and the Marchioness of Lansdowne arrived after dinner and remained during the speeches. The Hon'ble James Mackay, President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, and Member of the Governor General's Legislative Council, occupied the chair. After the toasts of "The Queen-Empress" and "The Royal Family" had been duly honoured, the Chairman proposed the health of "The Viceroy and the Land we live in." His Excellency, who, on rising to reply, was received with loud and prolonged cheering, spoke as follows:—]

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—One of the most enjoyable moments in the Viceroy's year is that in which, after six months of a somewhat monotonous existence within the narrow limits of a hill station, followed by as many weeks of the unrest and rapid travelling which attend his autumn tour, he finds himself once more in sight of the Ochterlony Monument. (*Cheers.*) On the present occasion the pleasure of my return to Calcutta is enhanced by the kind welcome which you have given me, and which has been expressed by your Chairman in terms, I am afraid, somewhat coloured by a personal friendship which I am very proud to possess. (*Hear, hear and cheers.*)

Speakers at Scotch gatherings are usually at considerable pains to prove to their hearers that they are themselves Scotch, or of Scotch extraction, however much the Glenlivet may have been diluted by admixture with less generous fluids. I believe, Mr. President, that I should not find much difficulty in demonstrating to your satisfaction that I have a good right to be counted one of yourselves. (*Cheers and laughter.*) I can, at any rate, say without affectation that there are no ties of blood which I value more than those which bind me to Scotland; that no

St. Andrew's Dinner.

hours have been happier than those which I have spent in the Scotch home of our family, and no friends truer or better beloved than those which Scotland has given me. (*Cheers.*)

Another favourite thesis upon these occasions is that the affairs of the world would have come to a stop long ago but for the part taken in their management by your fellow-countrymen. (*Cheers and laughter.*) That doctrine is one to which, within reasonable limits, I am perfectly ready to subscribe, and, if it holds good anywhere, it certainly holds good in India. It would be an interesting task to consider the effect upon the history of India which might have been produced if the Scotch ingredient had been withdrawn from amongst those who had the making of "the land we live in." To pursue such an inquiry into the regions of history would carry me altogether beyond the limits of an after-dinner speech. Moreover, it would probably be difficult to make researches in this direction, even if they were limited to the present day, without giving offence to the susceptibilities of those who have had the misfortune to be born in less favoured parts of the British Islands. (*Cheers and laughter.*)

If, however, I do not pursue the subject further in so far as India is concerned, I cannot resist saying, in support of our theory, one word as to the immense services which Scotchmen have rendered in another part of the Empire.—(*Hear, hear*)—I mean the great Dominion of Canada, in which I had the honour of representing Her Majesty for five years. The federation of the British North American Provinces took place in 1867, and during 19 out of the 24 years which have since passed by, it was a Scotchman, the late Sir John A. Macdonald (*loud cheers*), who, by the force of his character, by the courage of his patriotism, and his brilliant qualities as a statesman, held together the scattered sections of the Dominion, and controlled the centrifugal forces which undoubtedly in-

St. Andrew's Dinner.

creased the difficulty of his task. It is a singular thing that during the remaining five years the Premiership was held by another Scotchman, the Hon'ble Alexander Mackenzie, a man of humble origin, for, I believe, he was the son of a stone-mason in the little village of Logierait, whose simplicity of character, incorruptible honesty, and single-mindedness secured for him, both in and out of office, the deep respect even of those who differed from him politically. (*Cheers.*)

Gentlemen, the national work of which, above all others, the people of Canada are proud, and which was completed during my term of office, was the great line of railway which now connects the eastern and western seaboard of British North America and affords an alternative route from England to the East—a work without which the federation of the Dominion would have been impossible, and which was carried out in the face of great political difficulties, and in spite of physical obstacles of the most formidable kind. *Gentlemen*, that great railway was the work of Scotchmen, of George Stephen, a Banffshire man, who was, at the outset of his career, unblessed by any adventitious aids from fortune, while his colleagues were men whose names—Donald Smith, Angus, Macintyre—point unmistakably to the country of their origin. (*Hear, hear and cheers.*)

Mr. President, when I had the pleasure of accepting your invitation, I did so with one misgiving only. I felt that it would be impossible for me, amidst the disturbing conditions of an autumn tour, to arm myself with anything like a suitable reply to the toast which you have just so kindly drunk. It was indeed suggested to me that the occasion would be an appropriate one for an "epoch-making" speech. I am not at all sure that it is desirable to indulge too freely in the manufacture of epochs, and, at any rate, I am not prepared to attempt to produce anything half so indigestible to-night. (*Hear, hear, and*

St. Andrew's Dinner.

cheers.) I was tempted at one moment to offer you a few reminiscences of my recently concluded tour, but what I have said just now about Canada reminds me of an episode in my Canadian experience which does not encourage me to talk to you about my tour. I had completed a somewhat protracted voyage over the far western portions of the Dominion. On my return I was hospitably entertained by the citizens of a well-known town, and I took upon myself to give them a short account of some of the wonders which it had been my good fortune to see during the course of my peregrinations. My speech was, I am thankful to say, very indulgently received, and I was rather pleased with it (*laughter*), but my satisfaction was not a little marred by an observation which was made to me by a candid friend soon after the entertainment. He confided to me that my speech owed its success mainly to the fact that one of my predecessors had visited the same place a few years before, and had delivered an oration which had lasted for no less than three hours, while my speech had lasted for less than forty minutes. My hearers were surprised at my moderation, and were grateful to me. I accepted the hint as a warning against indulging in postprandial geographical lectures. (*Laughter.*)

I should, however, like to say a very few words with regard to the tour which I have just completed. It took me to no less than four Native States, all of them more or less important, and I should be wanting in fairness to the Rulers and the people of these States if I did not bear testimony to the cordial spirit in which I was received, and to the loyalty which, I believe, prevails within them. (*Cheers.*)

I found in Gwalior a young Chief of very great promise, and likely, I hope, one day to preside with distinguished success over the destinies of the State, the affairs of which have, during his minority, been faithfully and skilfully administered by the State Council. Its finances are in

St. Andrew's Dinner.

good order ; it has been able to spend liberally upon Public Works, as well as upon Education, the Administration of Justice, and other useful public objects. (*Hear, hear.*)

In Bhopal I had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of Her Highness the Begum, a lady who had already impressed me by her shrewdness and sagacity, the traditions of whose State are thoroughly loyal, who is herself the firm friend of the British Government, and whose courteous reception of me at a time when she is still feeling the effects of a heavy domestic affliction I shall not readily forget. (*Loud cheers.*)

At Indore I found His Highness the Maharaja Holkar taking a personal part in the administration of his State and interesting himself actively in the diffusion of knowledge amongst his subjects. (*Hear, hear.*)

My longest visit was that which I paid to the State of Kashmir. And, Gentlemen, I must express the pleasure which it gave me, after a very careful enquiry into its affairs, to be able to invite His Highness the Maharaja once more to take a part in the government of the State, of which we have never ceased to regard him as the legitimate Ruler. During his temporary withdrawal from the government, the State Council, ably presided over by Raja Amar Singh, and assisted by the British Officers whom we have lent to the State, has laid the foundation for a sound system of financial administration, and has introduced improvements which will, I believe, in time effect a transformation in the position of the cultivators and secure the removal of most of the abuses which had previously disfigured the State. (*Hear, hear, and cheers.*)

I dwell upon these facts because I regard it as a matter of first rate importance that the States in subordinate alliance with Her Majesty should be so governed that we need have no scruple in preserving for them that measure of independence which they at present enjoy. Not only would it be an act of injustice to deprive

St. Andrew's Dinner.

them of the privileges of self-government to which they are entitled, but it would, I am convinced, be a distinct misfortune to the Empire if these interesting remnants of indigenous rule were to be entirely effaced. (*Hear, hear.*) They may not all of them be governed entirely in accordance with our ideas of good government, but it is a question whether, in spite of this, they do not, from their point of view, prefer to remain under their own rulers, even if they are denied some of the administrative luxuries which we provide for the people of British India. Be this as it may, the territory directly under the Government of India is already so large, and our tendency to govern it in accordance with uniform principles, and according to stereotyped methods of administration, is so strong, that, from our point of view, I should regard with unfeigned regret any events which might force us to assume responsibility for any part of the large areas at present governed by Indian Chiefs and Rulers. (*Hear, hear.*) It is instructive both for the natives of this country and for Europeans, that the two kinds of government should be in force side by side, and in the full view of public opinion. We are all of us fond of dwelling upon the necessity of decentralising our administration, and, considering all the circumstances of India, I doubt whether there is any form of decentralisation more useful than that which leaves the domestic affairs of a large portion of the country to the management of its own people. (*Hear, hear.*)

But I must not forget that I am replying not only for the toast of my own health, but for that of the land we live in. Most of us will probably be content to accept the description which the Chairman gave of it when he told us that it was "not a bad place on the whole," and it certainly looks very pleasant to me this evening. But I think he hit the mark when he pointed out to us that its principal imperfection lay in the fact that it was, above all things, a land of great and sudden vicissitudes—a land in which we

St. Andrew's Dinner.

can never tell to-day what to-morrow has in store for us. From the poor ryot who sees his scanty crop swept off the face of the earth in a few hours by a swarm of locusts, to the Financial Member of Council, who sees his hopes of a surplus suddenly wrecked by agencies over which he has no control, we are all of us liable to see our "cloud-built castles and our golden dreams" shattered and dissipated by visitations as unlooked-for as they are overwhelming. However fair the prospect may be, India never ceases to be conscious that the gaunt spectres of war, want, and insolvency, are hovering in the distance and ready to swoop down upon us at any moment. Their unwelcome presence is one of the conditions under which we exist, and we must not regard it in a querulous or despondent spirit. We may find some crumbs of comfort in the reflection that it would not be difficult to point to other countries in which the prospects of peace are more precarious, and the consequences of famine even more terrible, than they are in India. The business of the Government of India is not to wring its hands, but to be forewarned and forearmed, ready for the emergency whenever it comes, and from whatever quarter. (*Loud cheers.*)

We are at this moment, I regret to say, confronted with the prospect of serious scarcity in several parts of the Empire, and our thoughts travel from this cheerful scene to regions in which distress and grave anxiety for the future must prevail for some time to come. In portions of Rajputana, and more especially in that part of it which is under the Government of India, of Madras, and of Burma, the outlook is, I grieve to say, a very gloomy one. The same may be said of the Hyderabad State, and of the eastern parts of the Bombay Deccan, and there are some districts in this Province in which everything depends upon the climatic conditions of the next few weeks. We may console ourselves by the reflection that we are better equipped than we ever were to meet the danger. Our

St. Andrew's Dinner.

intelligence is more timely, our means of supplying relief more adequate, than they were. (*Hear, hear.*)

It may interest my hearers to know that, taking the whole of the affected areas, the total numbers in receipt of State relief, either in the shape of work or charity, is at present under 60,000. (*Hear hear.*) The smallness of these numbers will be appreciated when it is remembered that they were considerably exceeded in the Ganjam district alone during the scarcity of 1889, and I may add that, although there has been great mortality amongst cattle, the loss of human life properly attributable to scarcity has, I am glad to say, up to the present time been insignificant. (*Hear, hear.*)

The measures adopted by the Local Governments have been well considered and vigorous (*hear, hear*), and I am glad to have this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the valuable exertions made by the authorities in the threatened districts, and more specially by Sir Alexander Mackenzie in Burma (*cheers*), and by my friend Lord Wenlock, whom we shall have the pleasure of welcoming to Calcutta almost immediately, and whose personal solicitude for the welfare of the people of his presidency at one time led him to run a serious risk to his own health. (*Loud cheers.*)

I am not surprised that my hon'ble friend should have called attention to the startling revelations of the last census. They do indeed afford food for reflection, some of it not of an altogether comfortable kind. We may perhaps draw two conclusions from them. The marvellous increase of the population, upon the one hand, proves to demonstrate the success with which our system of government has combated those agencies which in former days imposed some check upon the multiplication of the people of India. The second conclusion which we shall probably draw is that it becomes every day more and more the duty of the Government of India to seek for some

St. Andrew's Dinner.

means of relieving the pressure of the population upon the means of subsistence by bringing new tracts under cultivation either by means of irrigation, or by improving the means of access to them, and by encouraging the occupants of the most densely-inhabited districts to transfer themselves to those which are at present but sparsely occupied. (*Hear, hear.*) These important problems are, I am able to assure you, engaging our earnest attention. (*Cheers.*)

As to the spectre of war, we may, I hope, say confidently that there is but little prospect of strife within our own borders. (*Cheers.*) Not only is the surface smooth, but the great mass of the people are probably convinced that their prosperity is closely bound up with the peace which we have been able to secure for them, and that they will be the greatest losers if that peace should be disturbed. (*Cheers.*)

As for aggression from without, all that we can say is that the maintenance of peace does not depend upon our action here, but upon events occurring in other parts of the world, and over which we have no control. If that peace is broken, it will certainly not be in consequence of any acts of aggression, or of any desire for territorial aggrandisement on our part. (*Hear, hear.*) Here, too, we may find consolation in the thought that we were never stronger for the purpose of resisting attack from without than we are at the present time, and, in view of this fact, I trust my friend the President will not grudge us that expenditure upon the country's defences to which he has referred, and which we shall, I devoutly hope, ultimately be able to curtail. (*Cheers.*)

But, Gentlemen, there is another kind of warfare which does not come within either of the categories that I have mentioned, and with which we are, unfortunately, but too familiar in India. I refer to those little wars upon our frontiers of which, within the year which is about to end, we have unfortunately had no less than three upon our

St. Andrew's Dinner.

hands. With a land frontier of some five thousand miles, a great part of which is occupied by predatory and uncivilised tribes, complications of this sort are unhappily inevitable, and we cannot expect entire immunity from them. But I can assure you that upon no Government of India have these minor quarrels been more reluctantly forced than upon that of which I have the honour to be the head. My colleagues and I have fully realised the strain which they occasion to our resources, and the fact that their results are often scarcely commensurate with the trouble and the cost which they involve. The only point upon which I venture to insist is that, if disagreeable work of this kind has to be done, we should do it thoroughly. (*Loud cheers.*) The three little wars which we have had to wage during 1891 have been brought to a deliberate and satisfactory conclusion. None of them could, I believe, have been avoided without a serious blow to our credit and good name. (*Cheers.*)

Mr. President, just as the maintenance of international peace depends upon the course of events in other parts of the world, so the maintenance of our financial equilibrium depends to a great extent, not upon ourselves, but upon the vagaries of Washington and Westminster. (*Cheers and laughter.*) The triumph of the gentlemen who are, I believe, known as the "gold bugs" in the one place, or of the extremely anti-opium party in the other, may at any moment not only destroy the prospect of a surplus, but may render it extremely difficult to maintain an equilibrium between revenue and expenditure. A few months ago we were basking in the sunshine of a one-and-nine-penny rupee. My hon'ble friend, Sir David Barbour, very properly declined to be tempted into extravagances on the strength of this windfall, and the "kittle" coin has already been degraded to its former low estate. As for opium, our danger seems to me to lie in the extraordinary misapprehensions which prevail as to the attitude of the

St. Andrew's Dinner.

Government of India in regard to this much-vexed question. We have lately, as the President has told you, addressed the Secretary of State in an important Despatch dealing with a part of the subject—a Despatch which will, I hope, convince some of our critics that nothing is further from our intentions than to push the sale of opium for revenue purposes; that the alleged increase of consumption has been much exaggerated; and that where it exists it is to be explained by the increase of the population, and by the fact that, owing to greater vigilance on the part of our officers, the legitimate consumption of the drug has increased at the expense of the illicit traffic which prevails in many parts of India. Whether a moderate use of the drug is worse than a moderate use of the national beverage of which the President has spoken so affectionately (*laughter*), I will not now enquire, but of this I am persuaded that, if we were to be deprived, by a stroke of the pen, of our opium revenue to-morrow, the consumption of the drug would continue in spite of us, and that it is as much beyond our power to put an end to the use of opium in China and in India as it would, I believe, be beyond the power of the friends of temperance in England to put an absolute stop to the consumption of intoxicating liquors in that country. (*Loud cheers.*) The question is one which requires to be dealt with in a reasonable and judicial spirit (*hear, hear*), and I need scarcely add that the Government of India are ready to accept any useful suggestions which may be made by those who approach it in such a spirit for the removal of the undoubted abuses which attend the immoderate use of the drug. The Despatch to which I have referred contains proposals which ought, I think, to satisfy our critics of the *bona fides* of our intentions in this respect. (*Hear, hear.*)

If a reasonable view of the question prevails, I believe that, thanks to the elasticity of our revenue, we need not, even with the rupee at 1s. 4d., despair of making both

St. Andrew's Dinner.

ends meet without adding to the burdens of the tax-payer. (*Cheers.*) But then my hon'ble friend is not content with an equilibrium on the basis of existing taxation. He has kindly told us that he does not propose to invite a discussion of his particular complaint on such a joyous occasion as the present, but I must be allowed to assure him that I entirely agree with him,—both as an Income Tax payer on an income which no amount of watchfulness on my part can possibly conceal from the vigilant eye of the tax collector (*cheers and laughter*) and as one who has considered these questions as matters of principle,—in thinking that a direct tax on incomes is an impost which is open to a great many objections. (*Loud and continued cheers.*) But then I am bound to add that so also is the increased tax upon Salt (*hear, hear*), which we have been lately obliged to require from the poorest class of the community, while the same might be said of the duty upon rice, against which I have heard my friend, Mr. Steel, argue from his place in Council with convincing force. (*Hear, hear.*) I am afraid, therefore, that all the comfort which I can give my hon'ble friend is to assure him that, whenever we arrive at the blissful moment for considering what remissions of taxation we shall propose, the earnest protest which, upon this and upon other occasions, he has recorded against the Income Tax shall be carefully weighed. (*Cheers.*)

But, Gentlemen, I have detained you too long, and I must bring these desultory observations to a close. You have been good enough to drink to my health. My friend Dr. Fenn assures me that it never was better (*loud cheers*): it will be greatly invigorated by the tonic which you have administered to me this evening. (*Continued cheers.*) My health is, however, a very small matter compared with that other health which you couple with mine. As to the health of the land we live in, I hardly like to issue an official bulletin. I am not her only doctor, and my diag-

St. Andrew's Dinner.

nosis might perhaps not be accepted by the rival practitioners. (*Laughter.*) If, however, you ask me for an opinion, I should be disposed to say that the patient, in spite of the administration of remedies not always consistent or appropriate, has such a sound constitution that she will survive the ailments from which she occasionally suffers, as well as the somewhat fanciful and unorthodox treatment to which she sometimes has to submit, if only her doctors will not quarrel too much amongst themselves, and will be content to work with all their might and main, not for their own advancement or glorification, but for her welfare. (*Loud and continued cheers.*)

[In proposing the health of the Chairman at the close of the evening the Viceroy spoke as follows :—]

Gentlemen, at the outset of my remarks I said that I would not attempt a description of the services which India is receiving at the hands of Scotchmen in the present day. Had I attempted such a description, there is one Scotchman to whom I should certainly have given a prominent place in my *catalogue raisonné* of Indo-Scotian worthies. The person to whom I refer is your President, the Hon'ble James Mackay. (*Loud cheers.*) As a leading merchant, a member of one of those great mercantile houses which have done for India what no other agency could have effected, and as President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, he has earned for himself the respect and confidence of his fellow-citizens, and when a year ago I had to fill up the vacancy in the Legislative Council occasioned by the departure of our friend Sir Aleck Wilson, I had no hesitation in inviting Mr. Mackay to take his place amongst my colleagues. I have never regretted the selection, and I feel sure that no one else has regretted it. (*Cheers.*) Nor shall I readily forget the assistance which the Government of India received from him when we were engaged in the difficult task of piloting the Factories Bill of last session through Committee. (*Cheers.*) It was no

Unveiling the Dufferin Statue.

easy task to secure adequate protection for the Indian operatives without at the same time unduly hampering the manufacturers of this country in their competition with the producers of other parts of the world. In helping to bring about what I believe has generally been regarded as a satisfactory solution of its difficulties, we were greatly assisted by the sound sense, good temper, and thorough mastery of the subject displayed by your Hon'ble President. (*Cheers.*)

To-night we have found in him the most genial of hosts, and I ask you to join me in drinking his health. (*Loud and prolonged cheers.*)

UNVEILING THE DUFFERIN STATUE.

Dec. 8th 1891.

[The ceremony of unveiling the statue erected to the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava by the people of Calcutta was performed by the Viceroy on the afternoon of the 8th December in the presence of a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen. The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and Lady Elliott, Sir Comer Petheram (Chief Justice, Calcutta High Court), Mr. Justices Beverley and Tottenham, the Maharajas of Kuch Behar, Vizianagram, and Burdwan, Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, and many other prominent members of the Calcutta community were amongst those present. The proceedings were opened by Mr. J. L. Mackay, the Chairman, who read a report giving an account of the proceedings in connection with the statue, and who, in conclusion, thanked the Viceroy for consenting to unveil it. His Excellency then rose and said :—]

*Your Honour, Mr. Mackay, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—*I understand that before I proceed to unveil this statue, I am expected to say one or two words about the distinguished Statesman whom it represents. They shall be few and simple. The memory of Lord Dufferin is still fresh in your recollection, and no words of mine can add to, or subtract from, his reputation.

Unveiling the Dufferin Statue.

I have, however, perhaps a right to address you upon the present occasion, not only as the head of the Government of India wishing to do honour to an Indian Statesman, but as one whose friendship with Lord Dufferin carries me back to the earliest days of my childhood—an intimacy which, in spite of long periods of separation, has never been interrupted—and also as one who, in two of the important appointments held by Lord Dufferin, has had the good fortune to be his successor. My opportunities, therefore, of watching the judgment passed upon him after he had retired from the scene, and when those in whose full sight his work had been performed were no longer under the immediate and irresistible charm of his personal intercourse, have perhaps been greater than those enjoyed by others.

Perhaps the most noticeable feature in Lord Dufferin's career has been the unbroken continuity of his success. Most public men make mistakes, experience reverses, and find themselves for a time, rightly or wrongly, out of public favour, but the even course of Lord Dufferin's advance seems never to have undergone a check.

More than thirty years have passed since the time when, in 1860, he was deputed to represent British interests in the Lebanon, at a time when the blood-stained collisions between the Druses and Maronites promised to lead to serious complications in that part of the world. The distinction with which he acquitted himself, and the successful efforts which, at this period of his life, he made in the paths of literature and politics, established his reputation, and obtained for him appointments which familiarized him with more than one branch of the administration, and notably with that of the great Empire which he was one day to govern.

His designation to represent the Crown as Governor General of Canada was received with general acclamation. He undertook the appointment at a very critical period in

Unveiling the Dufferin Statue.

the history of the Dominion, during the early days of the federation of the British North American Colonies, and no Governor General ever did more than he to stimulate the loyalty of Her Majesty's Canadian subjects, or to strengthen the ties which hold together the Provinces of the Dominion, as well as those by which the Colony, as a whole, is united to the mother-country. As to the tact, dignity, and sympathetic spirit with which he discharged his duties, whether official or unofficial, he left behind him no two opinions.

The high degree in which he possessed these qualities pointed to him as one eminently fitted to serve his country in a diplomatic capacity, and, although he had not undergone that training in the Diplomatic Service which forms the usual avenue to its highest posts, I never heard it said that the absence of experience of this kind in any sense impaired Lord Dufferin's usefulness as British Ambassador at St. Petersburg and Constantinople. With each of these Governments our relations were of the most delicate and important kind at the time when they were committed to his charge, and they certainly did not suffer in his hands.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the recollection of Lord Dufferin's four years' service in India is still fresh in your memories. Whether in regard to the external, or to the internal, affairs of the Indian Empire, those four years were unusually eventful and laborious, and brought with them more than their share of trouble and heavy responsibility. Upon our Western frontiers he left his mark by a settlement, as complete as the circumstances permitted, of a boundary question which, less judiciously handled, would have imperilled the peace of the world, and by establishing upon the throne of Afghanistan a Ruler who has since shown himself faithful in his allegiance to us, and strong enough to hold in check the turbulent elements of which his kingdom is composed. Upon our Eastern confines he brought to a close a long series of complications and anxieties by the addition to the Empire of the Province of

Unveiling the Dufferin Statue.

Upper Burma. It would be impossible within the limits which restrict me this evening to deal adequately with his administration of the internal affairs of India. It will be memorable for many useful measures, amongst which a conspicuous place must be given to those for the improvement of the position of the cultivators of the soil in this Province, in Oudh, and in the Punjab. Education, the health of the people, the condition of the Public Service, the state of the Imperial Defences, the contribution to those defences made by the Indian States, the extension of our Railway system—all received their share of attention. I do not think it will be gainsaid that these, and the other grave problems which confronted him, were dealt with patiently, courageously, and judiciously. Nor, when the history of Lord Dufferin's administration comes to be written, will it be regarded as the least of his achievements that he throughout conducted the affairs of this country in such a manner as to create, and to maintain, a kindly feeling and mutual confidence between all classes and sections of your Indian community. One of the most unmistakable proofs that the verdict of his contemporaries in India was a favourable one is to be found in the fact that, as soon as his intended departure became known, a movement to erect this statue was set on foot. It was supported by all classes of the community without distinction of race, class, or creed.

Lord Dufferin is still serving his country, and will, I hope, continue to serve it for many years to come. All his old friends must have seen with pleasure that he has, within the last few weeks, had bestowed upon him the office of Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports—an office which, although purely honorary, confers upon the person who holds it the distinction of succeeding to a long roll of the most distinguished names in the modern history of Great Britain.

It would be hard, indeed, amongst his many brilliant

Unveiling the Dufferin Statue.

qualities, to designate those to which his success has been specially due. It may perhaps be said that the most conspicuous of these have been his extraordinary perception of human nature, his unerring tact, and his power of conciliating opposition. Nor must we forget that rare gift of appropriate expression in speech and in writing which, it has often been said, came to him as a birthright, but which, as an assiduous student of arts and letters, he constantly cultivated and improved—a gift which invariably stood him in good stead, whatever the nationality or the character of his audience, and which enabled him with equal ease and happiness, and with the precise amount of erudition, humour, and sound sense which the occasion happened to require, to describe his own adventures in High Latitudes, to take his part in the hot encounter of political debate, to lay rich stores of wit and wisdom before an academical audience, or to give voice to the feelings of a sorrow-stricken nation sharing its Sovereign's grief for an irreparable loss.

To the list which I have just given might, perhaps, be added one other quality possessed, I believe, in the same degree by no other public man of our day. His employment in the various offices, of which I have just spoken, has, to a great extent, cut him off from the narrower and more purely domestic politics of our own country, and has compelled him to look at the affairs of the Empire from a truly Imperial standpoint, and to include within his purview a horizon far wider than that of the average politician of our day. It is no doubt to this that are due those qualities of higher and broader statesmanship which are discernible in almost everything that he has said and written. This is why his reputation will go down to posterity as that of a Statesman, rather than a politician, as that of one who, in an age of party rivalries and sectional cleavage, was able to keep steadfastly before his eyes the larger in-

Distribution of Prizes at the St. Xavier's College, Calcutta.

terests of that great Empire, the dignity and reputation of which he has upheld in so many parts of the globe.

The statue, which I will now unveil, is the work of Sir Edgar Boehm, an artist whose recent decease removed one of the foremost sculptors of our generation. I have no doubt that the work will be worthy both of the great artist who has produced it, and of the man whom it represents. (*Applause.*)

[His Excellency then unveiled the statue. At the conclusion of the proceedings, Mr. Mackay called for three cheers for Lord Lansdowne, which were heartily given by the assembly.]

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT THE ST. XAVIER'S
COLLEGE, CALCUTTA.

[On Tuesday evening, the 16th of December 1891, the Viceroy 16th Dec. 1891. distributed the prizes at the St. Xavier's College, Calcutta. His Excellency was accompanied by the Marchioness of Lansdowne, Lady Evelyn Fitzmaurice, Colonel Ardagh, and other members of his staff. There was a large gathering of parents and friends of the Institution. The proceedings opened with an historical drama, performed by some of the students. At its termination, the Viceroy was conducted to the stage by His Grace Archbishop Gæthals, and the Very Revd. Father Neut, Rector of the College, and before the distribution of prizes, one of the pupils read an address to His Excellency on behalf of the students to which His Excellency replied as follows :—]

My Lord Archbishop, Teachers and Students of St. Xavier's College, and Ladies and Gentlemen.—It gave me great pleasure to be able to accept your invitation, which, thanks to your kindness, has been open to me for some time past, and I am glad to learn from your address that you correctly regard my visit as bearing witness to the interest which the Government of India takes in your College.

My first duty is to express to the Revd. Fathers my warm acknowledgment of the work which they have ac-

Distribution of Prizes at the St. Xavier's College, Calcutta.

complished. It is no small thing to be able to say that during the thirty years which have passed since the foundation of the College, the number of students has grown from 40 to 800, and it is remarkable, as showing how cosmopolitan are your principles, that amongst these are included representatives of so large a number of different creeds and nationalities—Protestants and Catholics, Hindus and Mahomedans, Greeks and Armenians, Parsis and Jews, while even Burma and China are not unrepresented.

You have pointed out to me that your course of education carries your pupils in an unbroken progression, from the infant classes at the bottom, to the M. A. College classes at the top; and I may here be allowed, as Chancellor of the Calcutta University, to congratulate you upon the large number of students whom you have, from time to time, been able to pass through the different University examinations and upon their good performance.

In some cases the success of your students has been unusually conspicuous. One of them recently obtained double Honours at the B. A. Examination, and is now in the Subordinate Executive Service; another, a Native student, has won the Sarada Prasad Prize in Physics, and a third, Mr. J. J. Platel, obtained last year triple First Division Honours at the B. A. Examination, heading the list in Latin and Philosophy, and carrying off the State Scholarship of £200, as well as two University gold medals. This distinguished young man is, I am glad to hear, now studying, not only at my old University, but at the old College, Balliol, where I was myself educated, and to which I am so much attached that I have lately sent my eldest son there. (*Applause*).

I am glad to hear that you have lately added to your curriculum an Engineering Class for the Thomason Civil Engineering College at Rurki. The professions to which a purely literary education is the avenue are so overcrowded that it is extremely desirable to provide openings for

Distribution of Prizes at the St. Xavier's College, Calcutta.

our most promising young men in other paths of life, and, considering how much has yet to be done in India for the development of our mineral resources, our railways and canals, the Engineer's profession appears to me to be one of the most hopeful which a hard-working youth can adopt.

Gentlemen, I must not forget to compliment the performers in the dramatic exercises, which we have just had the pleasure of witnessing, upon the creditable manner in which they acquitted themselves. (*Applause.*) I am glad to find that dramatic performances are popular with the students and encouraged by their teachers. The trouble of learning a part and rendering it intelligently will certainly not be thrown away by those who take it. It involves, to begin with, the exercise of close application and a considerable effort of the memory. It also obliges the actor to realise the meaning of the author much more thoroughly than if he was content with merely reading the play for his own amusement. But, besides all this, a young man who learns how to make a good appearance on the stage, acquires a mastery over his voice and gestures, over the carriage of his body, and the movements of his limbs, which he would probably not acquire in any other way. Young men, and not young men only, and particularly, I am afraid, my own countrymen, are apt to be nervous and ungainly on public occasions, and their self-consciousness, or diffidence, may find expression either in what is sometimes called swagger, or in the opposite extreme, which may be described as sheepishness. The discipline of the stage is not a bad corrective to these faults. If you can learn how to carry yourselves gracefully, modestly, and naturally on the boards, you will be materially assisted in doing so in private life.

The pains which are taken here in connection with such exercises afford an additional proof that you are aware that education, in the truest acceptation of the word,

Distribution of Prizes at the St. Xavier's College, Calcutta.

is not confined merely to that instruction which the student is able to derive from the books which he reads while he is studying within these walls. That which a lad is able to learn from the example and influence of his teachers, from the healthy competitions of the play ground, and from the character and conduct of his older school-fellows, affects his success in life quite as much as the lessons which he has to prepare, or the examinations which he is required to pass. An education of this wider kind is no doubt not so easily obtained in schools where the pupils attend only for part of the day, and where their whole time is not spent, as it is in our great English public schools, more or less under the eye of their teachers and in the midst of their comrades. In spite of this, a great deal can be done outside of the regular school work, even in a day school, in order to provide education of this sort, and I am glad to think that it is not neglected here. I observe that you have referred in your address to the good old games of cricket and football as a subject of "capital importance." That was the light in which we certainly regarded them when I was your age, and perhaps we were not very far wrong, although we were accused of working at our games and playing with our books. (*Laughter.*) But the encouragement of manly sports and of volunteering cannot fail to have a good effect, and I am glad to know that your Cadet Company is strong, and has proved that it can shoot straight by carrying off the Harwood cup. Independence of thought, manliness of bearing, love of truth, generosity, and forbearance—these are qualities for the absence of which no amount of book learning will make amends, and what I should like you youngsters to remember is, that it rests, not only with the teaching staff, but with the boys themselves, and particularly with the older boys, to see to it that the tone of the College in these respects is all that it should be.

I will now end my observations by heartily wishing you

Convocation of the Calcutta University.

success, and expressing the hope that those who have won prizes upon the present occasion will be encouraged to persevere and to maintain their reputation, and that of their old school, during their career in life. (*Loud applause.*)

CONVOCATION OF THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

[The Annual Convocation of the Calcutta University for conferring 23rd Jan. 1892. degrees was held in the Senate Hall of the University on Saturday afternoon, the 23rd January 1892, His Excellency the Viceroy, as Chancellor, presiding. The attendance of visitors and students was large. After the degrees had been conferred His Excellency, who, on rising, was received with applause, spoke as follows :—]

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The annual Convocation of the University affords me an agreeable opportunity of meeting you, which I should be sorry to miss, and I must express my pleasure at finding myself once more in this chair. It will not be necessary for me to detain you for more than a very few moments, but there are one or two matters which I cannot leave unnoticed.

You will, I think, expect me, in the first place, to say one word of sympathy and regret in reference to the death of the young Prince who was taken from us last week. The sympathies of this University are naturally with the young, and in this case you will certainly not be indifferent to the fate of one who in the very prime of his youth, and with a bright and splendid career before him, has been cut off so suddenly and under such melancholy circumstances. I am sure that you will share the sorrow of his parents, and that you will not forget that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales took an interest in this University, which in 1876 conferred upon him the honorary degree of a Doctor of Laws. I was glad to see, Mr. Vice-Chancellor,

Convocation of the Calcutta University.

that the Senate at a recent meeting so appropriately took notice of this sad occurrence.

I have to congratulate the Members of the University upon the fact that the Hon'ble Dr. Gooroo Das Banerjee has been good enough to accept re-appointment as Vice-Chancellor. (*Applause.*) He has, during the past two years, discharged the duties of his office with tact and judgment, and in a manner which has secured for him the confidence of the University. (*Applause.*) We are, I think, extremely fortunate in having prevailed upon him to accept re-appointment.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, I have to thank the Graduates of the University, whom I have for the third time asked to aid me in the selection of the Fellows who will be appointed to fill up vacancies on the list, for the assistance they have given me. They have exercised their choice in a manner which has met with general approval. The two gentlemen whose names they have submitted to me, Babu Pran Nath Pundit and Babu Upendra Nath Mitra, are both of them men of eminence in their profession (*applause*) and have a record of literary and academical achievement which clearly points to their fitness for the honour which has been done them. (*Applause.*) Both of them, curiously enough, have been elected Tagore Law Professors at different times. Babu Pran Nath Pundit is a well known Sanscrit scholar. Babu Upendra Nath Mitra was gold medallist of his year, and was for several years Law Lecturer in the Government College of Dacca, and has written a standard work upon a legal subject.

I may say in passing that I was gratified to find that you were able, in accordance with the suggestion which I ventured to make to you last year, to discover means by which Graduates in the Mofussil have been permitted to take part in the election of these gentlemen. I understand that out of 900 persons qualified to vote, 641 exercised the privilege conferred upon them : a sign that this particular

Convocation of the Calcutta University.

franchise has a higher value set upon it by those who possess it than certain other franchises which I could mention.

The result of the experiment has been so successful that I am certainly not disposed to abandon it. But it may be said, "If the experiment has succeeded so well, why not go further? Why not make the arrangement a permanent one, and give it a statutory sanction?" We all know of course that recommendations have been submitted to the Government of India by the Senate of the University for a revision of the Act of Incorporation, and I think I am right in saying that the principal change recommended was a proposal that one-half of the total number of Fellows annually appointed should be elected by the Graduates. Gentlemen, I have proved by my actions since I have been connected with the University that there is no difference between myself and those who hold this language as to the propriety of giving the Graduates a voice in the selection of the Fellows. University legislation is, however, a very serious matter, and not to be undertaken without a good deal of thought and deliberation. In this particular instance you are confronted with a special difficulty, that of providing adequately for the representation of the minority, whose claims none of us would desire to ignore. There is also this to be remembered, that changes of the law affecting one University to a certain extent involve the adoption of similar changes in regard to the others. In regard, however, to this question of the election of Fellows, experience has fortunately shown us that it is possible to give a voice to the Graduates in their selection without modifying the Act, and its revision may, for this reason, be regarded as less immediately urgent than it might otherwise have been. The same question has, as you are aware, been under consideration in reference to the Bombay University, which, like yours, has a body of Graduates representing a variety of different elements. The difficulty of

Convocation of the Calcutta University.

devising a system of election which should secure to each of these elements a suitable amount of representation would be very great, and the University of Bombay is, I understand, prepared, at our suggestion, to follow the example set here, and to proceed experimentally upon the lines which we have adopted. You may be quite sure that, even if we do not at this moment see our way to legislate in reference to this point just now, the privilege which I have been able to confer upon the Graduates is not likely to be restricted. The sound judgment which they have shown in exercising that privilege renders me indeed disposed to extend its scope, and I will gladly consider whether this cannot be done before the time comes when I shall again meet you in this building. (*Applause.*)

These are the only matters of University business, strictly speaking, which I wish to refer to; but, as you allow me to take advantage of these occasions in order to mention to you any questions affecting the University in which I am specially interested, I should like this afternoon to refer for a moment to such a question.

I have noticed with much pleasure, and I desire to commend to all the friends and supporters of the University, the movement which has lately been set on foot by the society known as that for the higher training of young men in Calcutta. I feel no doubt that there is room for such a movement, and that much good may be done by it. What are the facts? This University is, as we all know, an examining University. Our students have to satisfy us that they have attended lectures at one of the affiliated institutions, and they are required to pass an examination which shall prove that their studies have provided them with a certain amount of knowledge, and we thereupon bestow upon them an academical title. This is, I am afraid, the beginning and the end of our connection with them. We do not attempt to take charge of them in any sense during the time which they spend in preparing for their

Convocation of the Calcutta University.

degree; we are not responsible for their health, for their surroundings, and we do not seek to exercise any supervision over their private life. In some of the affiliated institutions no doubt some attempt may be made in this direction, but this affects only a very small minority of the students. The great bulk of them are, save for the fact that they attend the classes of a school or college during a few hours of the day, absolutely uncared for.

The result is that we have some six or seven thousand young men between the ages of 17 and 29 turned loose in this wilderness of a city, exposed to its temptations and dangers without any precautions to ensure that their lives shall be healthy, or happy, or respectable. The picture is one which it is impossible to contemplate without the deepest misgivings. The position of the lads who come here from the Mofussil must, at all events when they first arrive here, be one of the greatest isolation. They are, perhaps, separated by hundreds of miles from their friends and relations, and Heaven knows what sort of friends and what sort of connections they will form here if they are left to their own devices. No contrast could be sharper than that between the condition of the young men who take their degree in the Calcutta University and that of the students of one of our old English Universities. In the latter case you have the college with all its comforts and resources, its social life, its strict discipline and supervision; you have the intercourse of student with student, the *esprit de corps* which makes a young man proud of his college, the intimacy of teacher and pupil, and the influence of the former over the latter; the pleasant associations of the cricket fields and the river—all these build up a life, which has its social and domestic side, amidst the healthiest of moral and material surroundings. All these conditions are absent here. A young man coming to Calcutta from a distant town is a mere drop in this great sea, uncared for, exposed to every temptation and every dis-

Convocation of the Calcutta University.

comfort, unknown perhaps to his fellow students—perhaps even to his teachers. Can we be surprised if many of them do not pass through the ordeal without the worst results alike to body and mind?

This, Gentlemen, is, I understand, the state of things which the association, of which I have spoken, desires to improve. Let us be under no illusions as to the difficulty of the task. I hope it will not be supposed for a moment that, when I referred just now to the old English Universities, I believed that it was possible to reproduce them, or anything like them, in this country. I mentioned them rather with the object of suggesting that a student at Oxford or Cambridge would not have a much better chance of escaping the dangers which beset our young men here if he was exposed to them to the same extent.

I believe, however, that, without aiming at too high an ideal, it is within our power to do something to mitigate the evil, and I must express the pleasure with which I read the address recently delivered by Mr. Risley upon the subject of this movement. I understand that, in the opinion of the society, there are three directions in which something may be done. The work is, I am informed, to be divided into three sections,—the Literary section, the Athletic section, and the General section. The Literary section will be concerned with the books which the students may be expected to read outside of their regular school or college work. The Athletic section proposes to encourage those healthy games and out-door exercises which play so large a part in the education of English youth, while the General section has for its object the exercise of a useful influence over the conduct and character of the young men. It would be impossible within the limits of the observations which I am now offering to you to consider the possibilities which lie before us in these different directions. I can sum up all that I will venture to say this evening in a very few words.

Convocation of the Calcutta University.

In regard to reading, I see no difficulty in adopting the suggestion that a list of books should be prepared and recommended to our young friends for their reading—a list which would put them in the way of reading books quite as interesting as, and very much better for them than, the mischievous trash of which, I believe, many of them are copious consumers. Such a list, to be added to from time to time, could probably be prepared without very much trouble. If, however, this movement is to come to anything, I should like to look forward to the time when it will be possible to provide our students, not only with a list of books, but with the books themselves, and with convenient rooms in which to read them. A Library—perhaps a lending Library—with reading and recreation rooms attached, would, it seems to me, be a very admirable adjunct to the University. I say this without casting any reflection upon the existing University Library, which is intended mainly for the use of resident Fellows. I know that, under the Regulations, persons who are not Fellows may obtain special permission to use that Library, and even to borrow books from it, for purposes of literary research, but I doubt whether it could ever be made available as a popular Library for the bulk of the students.

As to the pursuit of athletic exercises, I do not believe that any amount of gymnastics will make up for the absence of such games as cricket and football. I cannot resist quoting Mr. Risley's dictum when he said that "the memory of the pious founder who endowed the schools of Calcutta with a suitable playground will be held in everlasting remembrance when many more serious matters have been forgotten." I should like to look forward to the time when suitable grounds of this kind will be provided for the use of our University students.

Of the work of the General section, it has been said with truth that the endeavour to form the character, and to guide the moral conduct, of our young men is one of

Convocation of the Calcutta University.

immense difficulty. I believe you can inculcate morality by precept and example, but I have not much faith in precept alone. Our schools, again, are, as a rule, day schools, and home influences upon which so much depends are, I suspect, much less strong here than they are in Europe. I have, however, an almost unlimited belief in the results which can be produced upon the young by the personal influence of individuals, and I believe that it is within the bounds of possibility that men might be found in this country capable of exercising such an influence over our students, and of exercising it with very far-reaching and very salutary results. If we could find here even one or two men animated by the same unselfish desire to do good and to spread the knowledge of the truth, as the late M. Arnold Toynbee, whose name may be familiar to some of you, the difficulty would, I believe, disappear. We should, however, require not only the men, but some kind of an organization for them to work under, and my thoughts recur to a movement in which I took some part before I left England—I mean that for the extension of University teaching instituted not many years ago by Mr. Goschen and a few other persons connected with the great Universities. The object of that movement was the establishment of different centres at which courses of lectures might be given by men carefully selected from amongst the most promising members of the University in subjects especially interesting to the residents of the localities selected. The movement has been very successful, and there is hardly any subject upon which lectures have not been given, and they have been very largely attended, and have, I believe, served to awaken a new interest in many objects of study hitherto completely neglected, except in the great centres of education. Is it beyond the bounds of possibility that teaching of this kind might be undertaken in Calcutta, not necessarily in subjects bearing directly upon the University examinations, but upon such subjects as history, litera-

Convocation of the Calcutta University.

ture, and those social, ethical, and economical questions in which we, all of us, take an interest?

But, Gentlemen, even if we are to assume that we have got the men and established the organization, it would be absolutely necessary, if the experiment is to be tried with any degree of success, that there should be some suitable place at which students and teachers should come together, and for this reason I should like to see the Association, of which I am speaking, provided with a head-quarters of its own in a central position. Its principal features would be a Library, with one or two lecture and reading rooms attached. and if this building stood by the side of a suitable recreation ground, our institution would become complete. All this may be unpractical and unattainable, and there may possibly be difficulties in the way which I have not foreseen. The idea seems, however, to be one worth discussion, and I believe that, if it were to be thoroughly matured, you would find many persons ready to give it their encouragement and their practical support. I, for one, shall be very glad indeed to do so. (*Applause.*)

And now, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, it only remains for me to congratulate the young men upon whom degrees have been conferred this afternoon, and to express my cordial hope that for them, and for the University, of which they are members, the new academical year may bring nothing but good. (*Applause.*)

[The Convocation was then addressed by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gooroo Das Banerjee, the Vice-Chancellor.]

UNVEILING LADY DUFFERIN'S PORTRAIT.

4th Feb. 1892.

[The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund for supplying female medical aid to the women of India was held in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on the afternoon of the 4th February. The occasion was utilized to unveil the portrait of Lady Dufferin which was to be formally made over to the Corporation of Calcutta by the Committee of the Dufferin Statue Fund. The proceedings opened by the Hon'ble Mr. Mackay (President of the Chamber of Commerce) requesting His Excellency, in the absence of Lady Lansdowne [who was unable to be present owing to a slight indisposition], to unveil the portrait. The Viceroy spoke as follows :—]

Your Honour, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,—Lady Lansdowne has asked me to express to you her regret that she should have been unable to be present and to unveil Lady Dufferin's picture this afternoon. She had fully intended coming here, but has, I am sorry to say, been prevented by a slight, and I hope temporary, indisposition.

A few days ago we were dedicating to the public the statue of Lord Dufferin, which now stands at the end of the Red Road. It was then pointed out to us that when his friends determined to commemorate the services which he had rendered to India by the erection of a suitable monument, it was also decided to devote a part of the sum which was collected to the acquisition of a picture which might recall to the inhabitants of Calcutta the form and features of her who, during Lord Dufferin's Viceroyalty, so gracefully and admirably seconded his efforts.

To you who knew Lady Dufferin as a courteous and gentle hostess, as an admirable leader of Indian society, and as an enthusiastic promoter of all useful works, it is almost needless that anything should be said as to the debt which is due to her by India, and particularly by the City of Calcutta. (*Applause.*)

In one respect, however, her position is unique amongst the distinguished ladies who have from time to time borne their share of the burden carried by successive Viceroys.

Meeting of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund.

Sir Philip Hutchins, as the representative of the Central Committee of the Dufferin Fund, will say a few words to you presently as to Lady Dufferin's connection with the movement, which will, I believe, for generations to come, make Lady Dufferin's name a household word in this country.

The portrait is the work of Mr. Shannon, an artist who has, within the last few years, taken his place in the foremost rank of portrait-painters, and particularly as a painter of fair ladies. I feel sure that in this picture the City will possess not only an interesting memorial of one whose memory is deservedly cherished, but a valuable and beautiful addition to the Art treasures of India.

I will now, Ladies and Gentlemen, with your permission, ask Sir Philip Hutchins to say a few words.

[Sir Philip Hutchins then addressed the meeting, after which His Excellency unveiled the portrait.]

MEETING OF THE COUNTESS OF DUFFERIN'S FUND.

[At the conclusion of the above ceremony, the Hon'ble C. H. 4th Feb. 1892. Moore presented the Seventh Annual Report of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund. The meeting was in turn addressed by Mr. Justice Gooroo Das Banerjee, Mr. Chentsal Rao Pantulu, and Mr. Justice Beverley. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor then proposed a vote of thanks to the Viceroy for presiding, which was seconded by the Raja of Bhinga. His Excellency in reply spoke as follows :—]

Your Honour, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I thank you heartily for the cordial manner in which you have carried this motion, and I must express my special gratitude for the kindly words which His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and other speakers have used in referring to Lady Lansdowne's connection with the Dufferin Fund, and to her absence this afternoon. I shall make her aware of what has happened here, and I am quite sure that the regrets which have been expressed for her absence, and

Meeting of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund.

the appreciative manner in which her services have been spoken of, will form the very best tonic which could be administered to her in her indisposition. (*Applause.*)

I have so often in this Hall, and elsewhere, expressed my interest in this movement, and the satisfaction which it gives me to support it, that I may well be excused from adding any lengthened remarks to those which have been made by previous speakers this evening.

I wish, however, to offer my congratulations to the Committee upon the satisfactory Report which they have been able to present. In one respect the state of things which has been described to us discloses a conspicuous improvement as compared with the accounts of former years. I can well remember that upon previous occasions, when the annual meeting of the Fund has brought us together, there has always been throughout the speeches delivered an undercurrent of despondency with regard to the scanty support which the Association has received in the Province of Bengal, and probably many of us still remember the eloquent appeal which was addressed to the people of the Province by your late Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Steuart Bayley, not very long before he left India. It is satisfactory to find that the appeals made by him and others have had their effect, and that the Province of Bengal has, during the past 12 months, set a brilliant example to the rest of India. It is not a little remarkable that, whereas the subscription from Bengal during the three years 1888, 1889, and 1890 aggregated only ₹24,000, the Bengal subscriptions for the past year have amounted to no less than ₹80,000. This has been in great measure due to the personal interest taken in the movement by His Honour the present Lieutenant-Governor, who has not only exerted himself warmly in the interests of the Association, but has set a striking example of liberality to the people of his Province (*applause*); nor shall we readily forget the encouragement which we have received from Lady Elliott,

Meeting of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund.

who has so energetically seconded the efforts made by His Honour. (*Continued applause.*)

Now, as to the Report, I rejoice to hear that the number of female students under instruction at the different Medical Schools was 224 during the past year. The number in 1888 was 127; in 1889, 192; in 1890, 204. We have, therefore, a steady and progressive increase which I trust will be maintained in coming years.

Similar progress is to be remarked in the number of patients, which has risen to 466,000, the highest number yet recorded. In this case also the progress has been steady and marked, for the number in 1889 was 280,000 and in 1890, 403,030.

I must take this opportunity of expressing my acknowledgments of the support which the movement has received in the different Native States, by several of which it has been taken up with much earnestness and liberality. We have now, I understand, over 57,115 patients in the Native States, and two of the Lady Doctors are employed in them.

The financial position of the Fund, although there is no doubt room for improvement, appears to be sound. The invested capital of the Central Committee and the Provincial Branches amounts to Rs. 10,83,000, and the District and local Branches have Rs. 3,73,000, or altogether 14½ lakhs. Of this sum, 12 lakhs have been spent on buildings, hospitals, etc.

The income from donations and subscriptions is higher than it was in any of the last three years, an increase which is entirely due to the improvement in Bengal of which I spoke at the outset.

The only other remark which I will make before resuming my place is to express my hearty concurrence in the observation made by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor when he said that he looked forward to a time when the Association would depend not so much upon the

Presentation of New Colors to the Buffs.

munificence of a few wealthy contributors as upon support received from a much larger number of subscribers who might become regular contributors of small amounts. We may, I hope, all of us live to see the Dufferin Fund not only continuing to prosper and advance as it has done during the last few years, but deriving its strength from sources much more varied and extended than at present.

I now thank you very heartily for your acknowledgment of my slight services, and I can promise you that I will make Lady Lansdowne aware of the manner in which you have referred to her this evening. (*Applause.*)

PRESENTATION OF NEW COLORS TO THE BUFFS.

5th Feb. 1892. [The ceremony of presenting New Colors to the first Battalion of the Buffs was performed by the Viceroy (in the absence of Lady Lansdowne) on the Parade Ground within Fort William on Friday, the 5th February, at 5 P.M. A large number of spectators were present. On His Excellency's arrival the trooping of the old Colors was proceeded with by the Regiment, at the conclusion of which the service for the consecration of the new Colors was conducted by the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, assisted by two of his Chaplains. His Excellency, having formally presented the Colors to the two Officers in waiting to receive them, then addressed the Regiment as follows:—]

Colonel Harrison, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the East Kent Regiment,—I have to express to you Lady Lansdowne's deep regret that she should have been prevented from taking part in this very interesting and impressive ceremony. It would have given her the greatest pleasure to commit these New Colors to your charge with her own hands. She has now asked me to do so for her. She entrusts them to your keeping in the full confidence that you will protect them worthily, and that, with them before your eyes, you will follow steadfastly in the footsteps of the many brave Soldiers who, in their lives

Presentation of New Colors to the Buffs.

or in their deaths, have, at different times, added to the honours of the East Kent Regiment.

More than 300 years have passed since, in the reign of another great English Queen, the Corps, of which this regiment is the lineal descendant, was enrolled by the citizens of London to take its part in the tremendous struggle for liberty which was then commencing in the Netherlands.

Since that time our country has been engaged in many great wars, and in every one of them the Buffs have lengthened the long roll of brilliant achievements with which the name of the Regiment is connected.

Upon the Continent of Europe under Marlborough, in the Peninsula under Wellington, in India, in the Crimea, in China, and in Africa, the Buffs have had their share, and more than their share, in upholding the honour of the Crown and the credit of the British Empire.

Lady Lansdowne trusts that the spirit which breathed in the veterans of Queen Elizabeth still lives in the hearts of the young Kentish Soldiers of Queen Victoria. She hopes that you will remember that, even in time of peace, you can, by the excellence of your discipline and conduct, and by the pains which you take to qualify yourselves for your work as Soldiers, afford an example to those around you, and she is sure that if you are again called upon to face an enemy, whether in a great war, or in one of those minor contests to which we are accustomed here, and in which as we have lately seen, there is ample room for an exhibition of the best qualities which a Soldier can possess, you will prove to your fellow-countrymen and to the world that you are determined to maintain, and to keep untarnished, the reputation of one of the most distinguished Regiments in the service of the Crown.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME AT KUCH BEHAR.

20th Feb. 1892. [On the afternoon of Saturday, the 20th February, the Viceroy arrived in Kuch Behar from Darjeeling, accompanied by Her Excellency the Marchioness of Lansdowne who came from Calcutta. This was the first occasion on which a Viceroy visited the State. On His Excellency's arrival at the palace he was conducted by the Maharaja to the Durbar Hall, where the Town Committee of Kuch Behar presented him with an address of welcome, the tenor of which will be apparent from the Viceroy's reply, which was as follows :—]

Mr. President and Members of the Kuch Behar Town Committee,—I thank you for the friendly words with which you have welcomed me to Kuch Behar. My visit is, as you have pointed out, a private and friendly one, the result of a kind invitation which your Maharaja, for whom I have a sincere regard, has more than once renewed, and which I am delighted to be able to accept this year. I shall, however, certainly not complain of you for having taken advantage of my presence, in order to bear witness to your feeling of loyalty towards Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, whose severe affliction has elicited such genuine and widespread sympathy throughout her Indian dominions. You have pointed out to me the advantages which the State of Kuch Behar has derived from its close proximity to the adjoining province of Bengal, and you tell me that your administration and laws are framed on the model of those to be found in the Lower Provinces. I am far from saying that it is desirable that the Indian States should in all particulars imitate, to the letter, the institutions to be found in British India. There can, however, be no doubt that, in many respects, those institutions, in so far as they provide for even justice, and for the security of life and property, afford an example which the States may do well to follow to the best of their ability, and with due regard to the different conditions of each portion of the country. I am particularly glad to hear that you are

Address of Welcome at Kuch Behar.

exerting yourselves to promote the sanitation of the town and other measures for the comfort and well-being of its inhabitants; and you may certainly congratulate yourselves upon the liberal amount of assistance which you have received from His Highness the Maharaja in furthering those objects. You have mentioned the disadvantage under which you labour in respect to the isolation of the State. I have perhaps experienced those disadvantages in a lesser degree than most travellers, on account of the admirable arrangements which have been made for my comfort during my journey by the railway officials, and by those of His Highness the Maharaja, but you are perfectly right to attach importance to this point. A good deal has, I am glad to know, already been done by the extension of roads throughout the State, and the railway which His Highness the Maharaja, to whose interest is works of public utility you have referred in appropriate terms, is so earnestly encouraging, will certainly confer a very great boon upon the public. I thank you for your courteous reference to Lady Lansdowne, and I feel sure that our visit, to which we have so long looked forward, will be a delightful one. Kuch Behar is famous for its sports, and I could not have a better mentor than your Maharaja, who, amongst his many admirable qualities, possesses in a high degree the love of those field sports and manly exercises which are so dear to my fellow-countrymen.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE LANS- DOWNE HALL AT KUCH BEHAR.

20th Feb. 1892.

[At half past 5 o'clock on the evening of the 20th February the Viceroy laid the foundation stone of the Lansdowne Hall, Kuch Behar, in the presence of a large number of spectators, who were seated under an immense shamiana which was pitched on the site of the proposed Hall. On His Excellency's arrival with the Maharaja, the guard-of-honour drawn up at the entrance saluted, the Band playing the National Anthem. His Highness, having conducted His Excellency to a seat on the dais, spoke as follows :—]

Your Excellency and Gentlemen,—We have assembled here this afternoon to witness the laying of the foundation stone of a new Town Hall. His Excellency the Viceroy was pleased to intimate to me that he would lay the foundation stone of the Hall which is to be erected here. The want of such an institution has long been felt in our town. For various reasons we have no public hall where meetings, or university examinations, can be held: nor have we a place where a public entertainment could be given. In addition to this, the condition of the present library is far from being a stable one, and any day the collection of books it contains may be utterly ruined for want of better shelter. The Hall, when finished will, I am sure, be a great boon to the enlightened public. The lower rooms will be used as a public library and reading-room, as also a place to hold public meetings and university examinations. The upper portion of the Hall will be utilised for masonic purposes. I am very pleased and gratified to be able to state that His Excellency has been pleased to allow this Hall to be called after him, and I am sure you will all join me in tendering our grateful thanks to His Excellency for the great honour he has thus conferred on us. [*Applause.*]

The Viceroy replied :—

Your Highness and Gentlemen,—It affords me great

Laying the foundation stone of the Lansdowne Hall at Kuch Behar.

pleasure to comply with the Maharaja's request and to lay the foundation stone of your new Hall. It is, I understand, designed to fulfil a three-fold purpose. It will be used for masonic meetings, it will be used to accommodate your library, and it will be used for the general convenience of public meetings and gatherings of all kinds. Now, I have not the honour of being a member of the masonic craft, but having served Her Majesty in several parts of her dominions I have had many opportunities of judging of the work done by the masonic fraternity, and I can say confidently that, wherever I have found them, they have been engaged upon philanthropic, charitable, and excellent works. As to the library, I am glad to know that there exists here already a valuable collection of books. We all know that in India books require a great deal more care and attention than they do elsewhere. It is, therefore, very satisfactory to hear that the Kuch Behar library is to be provided with a suitable home. As for the other purposes which the new building will serve, it is now pretty well admitted that no town of any importance is fully equipped unless it has some place for public meetings and gatherings. Those meetings may be social or political; they may be grave or gay; they may be even meetings held for the purpose of those university examinations which had so many terrors for us when we were young;—but whatever their complexion, I am sure that the new Hall will contribute materially to the convenience of the public of Kuch Behar. It is very agreeable to me to think that His Highness the Maharaja should have wished to call the Hall by my name, and I can assure him and you that I am extremely glad to stand godfather to it.

[His Excellency then laid the foundation stone, and was loudly cheered as he left the shamiana, accompanied by the Maharaja.]

DINNER AT KUCH BEHAR.

20th Feb. 1892. [On the evening of the 20th February the Maharaja of Kuch Behar entertained the Viceroy and a number of guests at dinner, after which His Highness proposed Their Excellencies' health. He said that this was the first occasion on which a Viceroy had honoured Kuch Behar with his presence, and he considered himself singularly fortunate in having been the first ruler who had been so honoured. He could not miss this opportunity of thanking His Excellency for accepting his invitation, the more so when he thought of the cares and anxieties which, as head of the Government of India, His Excellency had. He also thanked Lord Lansdowne for the kindly sentiments he had always expressed towards the Native princes of India, and for the extremely kind manner in which he was pleased to speak of him (the Maharaja) when replying to the Town Committee's address, and at the laying of the foundation stone of the Lansdowne Hall that evening. He begged to express his deep sense of loyalty to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress whom His Excellency represented in this country, and to assure His Excellency that his services personally, and the services of those belonging to him, were at all times at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government. It was a matter of extreme regret that the Maharani was not present there to welcome their Excellencies. The cause of her absence was known to His Excellency, but he would be glad to hear she was beginning to improve. He had again to thank His Excellency for honouring him with this visit, at a considerable sacrifice of personal comfort, and to ask the gentlemen present to drink His Excellency's health.]

[The toast was very warmly received.]

The Viceroy, in replying, expressed the great pleasure which it gave him to visit Kuch Behar, in compliance with the hospitable invitation made to him by the Maharaja soon after his arrival in India. His Excellency said that he had observed that although Indian tourists differed very much in their appreciation of the country, there was complete unanimity amongst those who had the good fortune to spend a few days in Kuch Behar as to the attractions of that place. His Excellency then referred to the pleasure with which he had noticed, during the few hours which he

Distribution of prizes to the Calcutta Presidency Volunteers.

had spent at Kuch Behar, the many evidences of the Maharaja's solicitude for the welfare of the people committed to his charge, and he thanked His Highness for his hospitality to him and his friends. He added that the only drawback to their happiness was the absence of the Maharani, whose illness he sincerely deplored. In proposing the health to His Highness he would couple with it that of the Maharani, with the sincere hope that she would, before long, be completely restored to her usual health. (*Applause.*)

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES TO THE CALCUTTA
PRESIDENCY VOLUNTEERS.

[On Saturday afternoon, the 19th March, Her Excellency the Marchioness of Lansdowne distributed the prizes to the Presidency Volunteers of Calcutta. The proceedings took place outside the Headquarters of the Volunteers in the presence of a large assembly. After inspecting the Battalion His Excellency the Viceroy addressed it as follows]:—

Colonel Chatterton, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Men of the Calcutta Presidency Volunteers:—It gives me much pleasure once more to inspect the Presidency Volunteers, and to be able to compliment them upon the creditable parade which we have just witnessed. I notice with pleasure that there is a marked improvement in the number of men present as compared with the attendance at the parade last year.

The Battalion may, I think, look back with satisfaction to the past 12 months. The different corps composing it have been complimented upon their general efficiency and their drill, by the General Officer Commanding the District, and his favourable opinion was confirmed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief when he reviewed a body of 2,400 Volunteers in January last.

The increase of numbers, which is so apparent upon

Distribution of prizes to the Calcutta Presidency Volunteers.

the ground to-day, has taken place in all the corps composing the Battalion. I am glad to hear that in the Calcutta Rifles, "A" Company, the numbers of which, since the formation of the Calcutta Light Horse and the Naval Volunteers, has steadily fallen away, has now been re-organised and placed in charge of three Officers, in whose hands it is likely to do well. The Company now has no less than 85 efficient on its rolls.

Since I last inspected you, the Cadets have been formed into a separate Battalion. This is a striking and encouraging recognition of their efficiency. I was glad to hear that the prize given by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to the Cadets for drill has been so keenly competed for, and I congratulate the La Martiniere School on its success in winning it for the fourth time. The total strength of the Cadet Battalion is now 619, and I hope it will continue to increase.

In regard to musketry, although the course has been made more difficult, it is reported to me that the shooting generally shows a steady improvement. The number of entries for the Viceroy's prize was 213 against 182 for the previous year. The prize was won by Sergeant-Major Harwood, with a score which has only once been beaten, namely, by his own, made last year.

For the inter-company challenge shield of the Calcutta Rifles, "B" Company made the extraordinary score of 87.42 per man out of a possible 105—a most remarkable and creditable performance. Corporal Farrell of this Company was second for the championship of the Bengal Presidency Rifle Association at Meerut, and won the silver medal.

I am glad to hear that the shooting of the Cadets has shown a general improvement. They have, for the first time, essayed volley firing, and with marked success. The team of the St. Joseph's Orphanage Company on Thursday last succeeded in putting 41 shots out of a possible 60

Distribution of prizes to the Calcutta Presidency Volunteers.

into the target at 600 yards, and 43 out of 60 at 500 yards, making a total score which, making allowance for the use of the carbine instead of the rifle, would be a first-rate performance for any adult team.

I have also to notice with satisfaction the success of the camps held by the Calcutta Light Horse, the Cossipore Artillery, and the Calcutta Volunteer Rifles.

There is another event in the history of the Battalion during the year 1891 of which I must be allowed to say a word. When the news of the Manipur disaster reached us, and when it was determined to send an expedition to retrieve it, the Pioneer Company of the Calcutta Volunteer Rifles, commanded by Captain Cox, offered their services for employment on field service on the Assam frontier in any capacity, and with any part of the regular army. The strength of the Company was 60 men, all efficient Volunteers. This offer was accepted by the Commander-in-Chief and by the Government of India.

Owing to sickness and other causes, only a part of the Company reached Manipur, but the Officer Commanding the Silchar Column reported that the men who were left at Silchar did useful work on the line of communication; and in the General Order of the 19th June the Governor General in Council expressed his gratification at the association with regular troops of the Volunteer soldiers of the Calcutta Volunteer Rifle Corps in this expedition.

I feel sure that, if we are ever to find ourselves confronted by a serious national emergency, the Calcutta Volunteers will be as ready to bear their part as were Captain Cox and the little body of gallant soldiers who accompanied him.

It must, I think, be gratifying to the members of the Corps to feel that, during the past year, so much general interest has been taken by the public and by the Government of India in all questions connected with Volunteering—an interest which, in the case of the Government of

Distribution of prizes to the Calcutta Presidency Volunteers.

India, will, I hope, be exhibited in a practical form by the adoption of any steps which may prove to be within our power in order to strengthen the position of the Volunteer Force throughout the Indian Empire.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the distinguished Volunteer Officers who were members of the two Committees, which, as you know, have, within the last few months, been engaged in the examination of these questions. The report of the Calcutta Committee has just been presented to us. We have yet to deal with its recommendations, but I am glad to bear witness to the conscientious and able manner in which it has done its work, which will, I have no doubt, not have been done in vain. I am sure, however, that you will permit me to remind you that nothing which the Military authorities can do to promote your interests can ensure the efficiency of the Force unless we receive the cordial support of the Volunteers themselves. A soldierlike spirit, a love of discipline, a desire to arrive at general efficiency as distinguished, for example, from mere proficiency in the use of the rifle, a readiness to undertake cheerfully any duties which he may be called upon to perform—these are qualities which no amount of encouragement from the Government of India can create. Their existence depends upon yourselves, and as the Honorary Colonel of this Battalion, I trust you will allow me to express my earnest hope that the Presidency Volunteers will be found capable of setting an example in this respect to the rest of India.

[The prizes were then distributed by Her Excellency.]

OPENING THE TANSA WATER WORKS, BOMBAY.

[The Viceroy, accompanied by the Marchioness of Lansdowne, left Calcutta for Bombay on the 28th March 1892. Their Excellencies arrived there on the evening of the 30th instant, and were the guests of Lord Harris at Malabar Point during their stay. 31st Mar. 1892.]

The principal function in connection with the Viceroy's visit took place on the 31st ultimo, when His Excellency opened the new water-works for the supply of the city and the island. These had been used for some time, but the formal opening was deferred, so that His Excellency might be asked to preside at the ceremony. To have visited the new dam and lake would have entailed a long journey, and it was therefore arranged that the proceedings should take the form of letting the new supply run into the mains at Chinchpooogli. The spot where the Tansa and Vehar pipes unite was selected, and the site was transformed into a remarkably pretty scene. The dais for the Viceroy, Lady Lansdowne, and Lord Harris, together with the platforms for the principal residents and general public, numbering over two thousand, were very attractively decorated and conveniently laid out. In the centre was a fountain, with a central and numerous subsidiary jets, which His Excellency, by turning a lever, supplied with water from the Tansa main. On her arrival, the Marchioness of Lansdowne was presented with a beautiful bouquet, which was held together by a gold bracelet, the ornamental part of which was a Norman shield, with the Corporation Arms engraved upon it.

Mr. Acworth, the Municipal Commissioner, reviewed at some length the history of the undertaking, which, he said, had cost a crore and a half of rupees, though the estimate had only been for 123 lakhs. The work was commenced in January, 1882, and will supply over 20,000,000 gallons of water daily. The dam is nearly two miles long, the ducts fifty-five miles long, and there are twenty-seven miles of iron main, four feet in diameter, four miles of tunnels, and something less than a mile of iron girder bridges.

Mr. George Cotton, President of the Corporation, then read an address of welcome to the Viceroy, who, in reply, spoke as follows] :—

Your Excellency, Mr. President and Members of the Municipal Corporation of Bombay.—The cordial terms in which you have welcomed me, and the satisfaction which you have been good enough to express at my presence upon this interesting occasion, are most acceptable to me.

Opening the Tansa Water Works, Bombay.

Allow me, on my side, to express the pleasure which I feel in renewing my acquaintance with your city, and with the public body which administers its affairs. My thoughts naturally turn back to the period when, more than three years ago, I landed for the first time upon Indian soil amidst all the hopes and misgivings which are inseparable from such an occasion. The Municipality of Bombay was the first public body to hold out to me a welcoming hand. I greatly valued the compliment which it then paid me, and I value no less the renewal of those kindly feelings which you have so generously expressed in your address. (*Applause.*)

I may, perhaps, be allowed to say that, although I have, since I first had the honour of making your acquaintance, travelled over a considerable portion of the Indian dominions of Her Majesty, nothing that I have since seen has impressed me more than the aspect of this city, as I saw it for the first time in 1888. (*Applause.*)

But, Gentlemen, the reception which you have given me is something more than a mere personal compliment. I regard it, and as the head of the Government of India I am glad to regard it, as an indication of your desire that the Supreme Government should be associated with you in your rejoicings at the completion of a work which, though local in its character, is one of such magnitude, and confers such benefits upon a community so important, that we may well be allowed to consider it as falling outside the category of ordinary municipal undertakings.

Your address refers, in appropriate terms, to the dimensions of the work, the completion of which you are celebrating to-day. You have, indeed, every reason to be proud of the achievement. It has been carried out in the face of great physical obstacles. You have no perennial stream at hand, from whence, by a simple process of diversion, your city could be furnished with an abundance of water. You have no lakes, like Loch Katrine, from which

Opening the Tansa Water Works, Bombay.

the city of Glasgow draws an unfailing supply. The climatic peculiarities of India impose upon you the onerous condition of providing a storage reservoir—sufficiently large to collect, during the rainy season, a quantity of water adequate to provide for your wants during the remainder of the year. You have had to go far a-field, over fifty miles I believe, to discover a suitable catchment area in which to imprison the monsoon rainfall; while the subsidiary work connected with conducting the water from the lake to the city has involved the construction of aqueducts, bridges, tunnels, syphons, and other large works of hydraulic engineering. It is no small thing to be able to say that, in order to procure for Bombay a supply of pure water, you have erected the largest masonry dam in the world—a dam the construction of which has necessitated the acquisition of an area of over 5,000 acres of land, and which has resulted in the creation of a lake with an area of nearly six square miles.

Well, Gentlemen, you are, I believe, in a position to claim that these efforts are likely to be crowned by a measure of success even greater than was anticipated by the most sanguine supporters of the project. (*Hear, hear, and applause.*) In the first place, the quality of the water proves to be not only undeniable, but considerably purer than that furnished by either of the Tulsi or Vehar reservoirs, and it will be purer still when the first year's collection is drawn off. In point of quantity the works were expected to provide a daily supply of 17,000,000 of gallons. It has been ascertained that they will, as a matter of fact, provide 21,000,000 of gallons, or 40 gallons per head of the population. I believe you will be able to say, with perfect truth, that no city in the world, considering its requirements, will be more liberally provided with pure water than the city of Bombay. This liberal supply, however, by no means exhausts their capabilities, for you have, I understand, at Tansa a storage equivalent to 27,000,000

Opening the Tansa Water Works, Bombay.

of gallons per day, and you will be able, at any moment, by laying an additional pipe, to increase your supply to 26,000,000 of gallons per day, while, if the increasing requirements of the city should require a still larger amount—a contingency which we certainly cannot regard as by any means improbable—the available storage could, by raising the height of the dam, be increased to no less than 68,000,000 of gallons per day. To complete your triumph it has been ascertained that, whereas it was expected that the rainfall of 80 or 90 inches would be necessary to fill the Tansa lake, a rainfall of even 40 inches will be sufficient for the purpose, so that, even in the driest seasons, you need have no apprehension as to the sufficiency of your supply. (*Hear, hear, and applause.*)

The benefits of such a supply of water to your great and growing population cannot be over-rated. It is on record that, two hundred years ago, a traveller who visited the island declared, not only that provisions were scarce and bad, but that the unhealthiness of the water bore a just proportion to the scarcity and meanness of the diet. It is a pity that we cannot recall that traveller to life and show him your splendid markets, which I remember visiting when I was here in 1888, and which a predecessor of mine declared to be finer than those of any great city in Europe, and the works which we are to open this evening. There will not be a resident in the city, from His Excellency at Malabar Point to the dweller in the humblest native bazar, who will not be a gainer by what you have done. There is no result of European civilization in India which I look upon with more unmixed satisfaction than I do upon the great water-works which so many of our principal cities have lately called into existence. I never look at a stand-pipe in a dusty street without feeling that here at least is something which our civilization has done for the country, and which has conferred upon it an absolutely unmixed advantage. (*Applause.*)

Opening the Tansa Water Works, Bombay.

Mr. President, you have referred with pride to the fact that this great work, so vast and so beneficial, has been brought to a successful conclusion through the agency of your Municipality. You point to the Tansa scheme as an illustration of the capabilities of Local Self-Government in the East, and you remind me of the hope which you expressed, when you addressed me three years ago, that I would give free scope and encouragement to Municipal institutions in this country. I cannot call to mind any instance in which I have laid myself open to the charge of disregarding the wish which you then expressed. I am a believer in Municipal Self-Government. I came here from a country in which Municipal institutions are probably more perfectly developed than they are in any other country in the world, and I have hailed with satisfaction the various measures which have, from time to time, been passed for the purpose of placing upon a wider and more popular basis the administration of Municipal affairs in the United Kingdom. I am therefore the last person in the world who would regard with a jealous eye the privileges enjoyed by our Indian Municipalities, or who would be extreme to mark if, at the outset of their career, they failed, in some respect, to realize the expectations which had been formed of them. At the same time, I have never disguised from myself that Municipal Government in India has special difficulties to contend with. It has been frequently and truly said by those who have made this subject their special study that, owing to the structure of society in India, the number of persons likely to take an interest in civic affairs is relatively much smaller here than it is in Western countries; and I have observed with regret that, in some of our Municipalities, there has prevailed a regrettable degree of indifference to the interests of the community—an indifference which sometimes takes the shape of leaving to a few willing workers the burdern of exertion and responsibility which

Opening the Tansa Water Works, Bombay.

ought to be generally shared ; and sometimes that of obstruction, offered from motives of false, or even selfish economy, to the progress of necessary schemes. I am, therefore, glad to congratulate your Municipality on the readiness with which, as the representatives of the rate-payers of Bombay, they have faced the responsibilities of this great enterprise. (*Loud applause.*)

There is, however, a special reason for which it is satisfactory to be able to dwell on the success which has attended Municipal Self-Government here. Bombay may claim for itself the credit of having been the city which was the first to introduce into India a true measure of Municipal Self-Government—(*applause*)—and when the history of Municipal institutions in this country comes to be written, the Bombay Council Act of 1872, which for the first time gave to your citizens a corporation, elected in great measure by the rate-payers of the city, will certainly be regarded as the most important departure of this kind which has yet taken place in India. The completion of these works proves that the Municipal Resolution of 1872 gave to your city something more than an ingenious paper constitution ; it gave to it a civic body capable of seeing the necessity of such a project as this, capable of undertaking it, capable of carrying it through, under the supervision of its own officers. It is to Municipalities, such as yours, working in the fullest light of public opinion, and able to command the services of gentlemen of position and wide business experience, that we must look to set an example to other and less fortunately circumstanced civic bodies.

Gentlemen,—I notice with much pleasure your reference to the concession which the Government of India was able to make to you in the matter of the repayment of the water-works loans by prolonging the period within which the capital was to be replaced. That concession was granted after a full discussion of the subject, to which I

Opening the Tansa Water Works, Bombay.

can assure you I gave my best personal attention—a discussion during which I had the advantage, not only of having the views of the Municipality and the Local Government laid before me in official papers, but also that of receiving from His Excellency the Governor a personal explanation of the circumstances. (*Applause.*) I am glad to have this opportunity of bearing my testimony to the manner in which the interests of the city were handled by Lord Harris—(*applause*)—and I can assure you that, if the Presidential Government has in him a head which is ready to criticize your proceedings when he believes you to be in error, you could not have an advocate with a more thorough mastery of his subject, or a more watchful or energetic champion, than His Excellency, when he is convinced that you are in the right. (*Loud and prolonged applause.*)

For myself, I may say that it was most satisfactory to me to be able to meet your wishes. (*Hear, hear, and applause.*) If we did not do so without some hesitation, and if we did not concede everything which you asked of us, you will, I am sure, not have misunderstood our motives. The Government of India stands towards you somewhat in the position of a trustee of the great estate which you are administering. We have to consider, not only the interests and convenience of the generation which is with us, but those of the generation which will follow it. The only sound principle is that each generation should pay its way. We cannot, so to speak, allow the present to draw *post-obits* on the remoter future. That is a doctrine which we not only preach, but which we practise ourselves in dealing with the finances of India. It was of course open to you to plead that it was not fair that your generation should be at the cost of equipping a great city like this with costly water-works, as well as with other luxuries, such as the public markets, the sanitary appliances and the public buildings, which have been

Opening the Tansa Water Works, Bombay.

provided at the expense of the rate-payers within the space of a few years. That, Gentlemen, is a perfectly fair argument, but we must not push it too far. It would be conclusive if there were any finality in the matter of these improvements, but we live in an age of advance and invention, and we must remember that each generation will have new requirements of its own, not less costly, not less indispensable, than those which are pressed upon us now. Consider, for example, what has been done recently by the application of electricity to the requirements of our daily life, and read the recorded aspirations of the greatest electrical engineers, and you will be able to arrive, at any rate, at a conjecture of the sort of schemes for which your grandchildren, and great grandchildren, will be expected to provide. With such a future before us we should be culpable if we were to endeavour to transfer from our own shoulders, or from those of our children, to a remote posterity, a burden for which we are ourselves responsible.

And now, Gentlemen, before I resume my place, you will, I am sure, permit me to bear witness to the great obligation which we are under to some of the distinguished men whose names will always be connected with the inception and completion of this great project. The first name that I will mention to you, and which will, I have no doubt, have already occurred to those whom I am addressing, is that of Major Tulloch, now one of the officers of the Local Government Board in England. It is to Major Tulloch that is due the discovery of the catchment basin from which the Tansa Reservoir will be supplied, and I take it that it was his survey and report, given to the public ten years ago, which led the Corporation to fix its attention upon this scheme as the only one likely to supply the wants of the city in an adequate manner. (*Applause.*) Major Tulloch's elaborate work on the water-supply of Bombay was not written in vain, and in 1884 the Cor-

Opening the Tansa Water Works, Bombay.

poration passed a Resolution approving of the proposal to have detailed plans and estimates prepared in order to carry out his scheme.

In compliance with the request of the Corporation, the services of Mr. W. Clerke—(*applause*)—were placed at your disposal by the Government for the purpose of preparing a working plan, with such modifications as might prove to be desirable. Mr. Clerke was specially qualified to assist you in consequence of his wide experience, and the fact that he had, for some years, been in charge of the Government water-works at Lake Fife near Poona. He has performed his task with signal success, and deserves our hearty congratulations. (*Applause.*)

To these gentlemen, and to their assistants, belongs the credit of having correctly gauged the dimensions of the problem, and of having successfully solved it. It is, however, to the citizens of Bombay, and to the chief officers of the Municipality, that is due the credit of having insisted upon carrying through, not merely a scheme for supplying Bombay with pure water, but the only scheme which could do so adequately. I am glad to have the opportunity of bearing witness to the part played in the history of the Tansa water-works by Mr. Ollivant—(*applause*)—who, during his long tenure of office as Municipal Commissioner, gave the project a cordial and consistent support—a support which has been continued to it by his distinguished successor, Mr. Acworth. (*Applause.*) I am sure, however, that both the present, and the late Municipal Commissioner, would be the first to admit that their task would have been far more difficult but for the hearty encouragement which they received from the elected representatives of the rate-payers of Bombay, and amongst these I may, perhaps, mention one, Dr. Blaney, a gentleman well known for his public spirit and good deeds, whose energetic advocacy of the scheme contributed largely to its acceptance by the body of his fellow-citizens. (*Applause.*)

Opening the Tansa Water Works, Bombay.

And, lastly, Mr. President, I must be permitted to congratulate you upon the good fortune which enables you, before your retirement from the Presidentship, to witness this most interesting ceremony.

Before I resume my place, I must not forget to thank you for your courteous reference to Lady Lansdowne. (*Applause.*) It has given her the greatest pleasure to accompany me. She is, as you are aware, on the point of leaving this country for a few weeks, possibly owing to a fear that some evil-disposed Member of Parliament may move an amendment in the Bill, which is now before the House, with the object of rendering it illegal, not only for the Viceroy, but for his wife to absent herself from her post. (*Laughter.*) You have been pleased to present her with a beautiful souvenir of this interesting event, and I am sure that the golden rivet in which you have imprisoned her wrist, and which bears the Arms of this City, will not fail to remind her, during her absence from India, that it is her duty not to defer too long the date upon which she will once again set her face towards Bombay. (*Applause.*) I am sure that she could not carry away with her a more edifying, or instructive, impression of India than that which will be left upon her mind by the scene which she has witnessed to-day.

And now, Gentlemen, it remains for me only to thank you once again for your kindness to us both, and to express our hope that the stream which has been allowed to flow to-day may, for many generations to come, bring to this great City an unstinted measure of health, comfort, and prosperity. (*Loud and continued applause.*)

[His Excellency Lord Harris, in an interesting speech, then returned thanks in the name of the city of Bombay, to the Viceroy for his presence on the occasion, and concluded by welcoming their Excellencies to the Presidency. The proceedings then terminated.]

DINNER AT BHOPAL.

[The Viceroy and the Marchioness of Lansdowne with His Excellency's staff left Simla on Thursday morning, the 27th October, *en route* for Hyderabad, Mysore, and Madras. Their Excellencies arrived at Bhopal on the evening of the 28th, and were entertained, in an informal manner, by Her Highness the Begum at dinner at the railway station. After dinner Her Highness appeared and proposed, in the vernacular, the health of the Queen-Empress, followed by that of their Excellencies, the translation being rendered into English by Captain Meade, Political Agent. Lord Lansdowne replied as follows:—]

28th Oct. 1892.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I cannot thank Her Highness sufficiently for the generous terms in which she has proposed Lady Lansdowne's health and mine. It has been most agreeable to us to find ourselves once more Her Highness's guests. We have not forgotten—and I am sure none of those who were with us last year have forgotten—the hospitality with which we were received at Bhopal twelve months ago; and no event has more indelibly impressed itself upon my mind, during my stay in India, than the occasion when, at a State banquet, given to us by Her Highness, she expressed, in stirring, and well chosen words, her devotion to the British Empire, and her loyalty to the Queen Empress of India. (*Applause.*)

In accordance with the promise which I then gave, I laid before Her Majesty the full substance of Her Highness's speech, and I am able to say that Her Majesty was greatly pleased with the sentiments to which Her Highness then gave utterance. (*Applause.*)

I cannot help feeling especially grateful to Her Highness for the kindness which she has shown us upon this occasion, for, although we were travelling hurriedly through her State, and, therefore, unable to make any stay within it, Her Highness had no sooner heard that we were to pass by Bhopal this evening than she signified to us her desire that we should halt here, if only for a few moments, in order to enjoy her hospitality for the second time.

Dinner at Bhopal.

Her Highness has again publicly borne witness to her loyalty, and I am glad to assure her—if indeed it is necessary to do so—that, amongst the Rulers of the Indian States, there is no one in whose fidelity the Government of India feels more absolute confidence. It will always be a pleasure to me to afford Her Highness the support and encouragement of the Government of India whenever she feels that that support can be of use to her. (*Applause.*)

I now ask you to join with me in drinking the health of Her Highness the Begum, and in wishing long life to her and prosperity to her State. (*Applause.*)

ADDRESS FROM THE POONA CITY MUNICIPALITY.

2nd Novr. 1892.

[The Viceroy arrived at Poona on the 30th October, and, on the 2nd November, the President and members of the Poona City Municipality presented His Excellency with an address of welcome at Ganeshkhind. Lord Harris accompanied the Viceroy in receiving the deputation, which was a large one. His Excellency, replying to the address, spoke as follows :—]

Gentlemen.—It gives me much pleasure to meet the members of your Corporation, and to listen to the friendly words in which you have welcomed me to Poona.

Although, as you are aware, my visit to His Excellency the Governor was entirely unpremeditated, and of a private and unofficial character, I should have been indeed sorry to allow it to come to an end without meeting the Municipal representatives of a city which, as you have reminded me, is conspicuous, not only on account of its ancient traditions, and because of the leading position which it occupies as a centre of intellectual activity, but from the fact that it is, during a great part of the year, the head-quarters of the Government, so ably presided over by my friend Lord Harris.

The good-will of such a Municipality, deriving its authority, as yours does, from the freely exercised suffrages

Address from the Poona City Municipality.

of your fellow citizens has, I can assure you, a very special significance, and value, in my estimation.

I take note of the wish which you have expressed in connection with the financial provision to be made for the drainage of the city and cantonments, and for the supply of pure water. I recognize the great value of these sanitary measures to all classes of the community, and more especially to the troops quartered here, the preservation of whose health is a matter of more than mere local importance. Your representations upon this point shall, I can assure you, receive careful consideration.

I notice with special satisfaction your reference to the approaching reconstitution of the Legislative Councils. The importance of this reform forced itself upon me from the time when I commenced my term of office in India, and I have never ceased to press it upon the attention of Her Majesty's Government. Our proposals have received the cordial support of both the great political parties at home, and I rejoice to know that we are now able to predict, with something like certainty, that the time is near at hand when effect will be given to the statute passed this summer by the Imperial Parliament. I can assure you that I have spared no efforts, and will spare none, in order to give effect to that important measure, in a manner which, to use your own words, "will afford a fresh stimulus to the policy of local self government, initiated by Lord Mayo's administration, and developed by his successors."

We are, at this moment, in correspondence with the Secretary of State as to the rules and regulations to be issued under the new Act, and it would obviously be improper for me to offer you a premature announcement of our intentions, but I may, without indiscretion, tell you that we are in agreement with you upon one of the most important principles involved, and that we hope to be able, in accordance with your suggestion, to recognize the urban and the rural Boards in the several provinces of India, as

Address from the Poona City Municipality.

units for the selection of some proportion of the non-official members of the reformed Councils.

Gentlemen, we do not pretend that we are going to introduce into India fully developed representative institutions, of the kind which have been gradually, and laboriously, erected in Western Europe, but the proposed enlargement of the Councils, the addition to them of members who will be, as far as the conditions of this country permit, representative of the principal classes and interests of India, the concession of the right of interpellation, and the admission to the annual discussion of the financial proposals of the different Governments, will, I venture to think, give to the deliberations of the Councils,—and I am speaking both of the Viceroy's Council and of the Local Councils,—an importance, and a degree of public usefulness in which they have, up to the present time, been lacking.

One word more before we part. You have reminded me that Poona is the head-quarters of a number of influential associations and organizations, some of which you have enumerated. Certain of these bodies have been good enough to express their readiness to meet me as you have done, and it was with great regret that, on account of the short duration of my visit, and the special circumstances under which it has been made, I found myself constrained to decline the invitations thus made to me. I am sure, however, that my refusal will not have been misunderstood, and I hope that the cordial acknowledgments which I now beg to offer to you, the legally constituted representatives of the city of Poona, will be accepted by all classes and sections of the people, within the districts of which Poona is rightly regarded as the centre.

It remains for me to offer you Lady Lansdowne's best thanks, as well as my own, for your friendly reception. It has been a source of the greatest satisfaction to us both that we are able to find ourselves here.

BANQUET AT HYDERABAD.

[The Viceroy and the Marchioness of Lansdowne arrived at Hyderabad on the afternoon of the 3rd November, and were received by His Highness the Nizam, and all the principal officials of the Hyderabad State at the Railway Station. Their Excellencies, during their stay till the 8th, were the guests, at Chadarghat, of Mr. Trevor Plowden, the Resident. On Friday evening, the 4th November, His Highness entertained Their Excellencies at a banquet, to which about 300 guests were invited, representing the civil and military communities, European and Native, of Hyderabad, Secunderabad, and Bolarum. The Nizam dined with the company, being seated between the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne. After dinner His Highness, having proposed the health of the Queen Empress, which was warmly received, proposed that of Their Excellencies in the following terms :—]

I cannot express to Your Excellency with what pleasure I rise this evening to welcome Your Excellencies Lord and Lady Lansdowne to my capital. The historical friendship that has existed between my State and the British Government has not been confined to mere mellifluous words, but has been tested by deeds—deeds in which the best blood of Hyderabad was shed in defence of British interests, deeds in which British blood was spilt in defending the throne of a faithful ally. This friendship is a most precious legacy left to me by my prescient ancestors, which I am not only most anxious to maintain, but to increase by continuous deeds of loyal amity. I will not detain Your Lordship and Lady Lansdowne with further expressions of my happiness in welcoming you. I therefore conclude by proposing Your Excellencies' very good health.

[The toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

[His Excellency then rose and spoke as follows, his speech being frequently interrupted by applause :—]

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen.—I have listened with the keenest interest to the forcible words in which Your Highness has borne witness to the hereditary friendship by which, in past years, the Hyderabad State and

Banquet at Hyderabad.

the British Government have been united. That "precious legacy," as Your Highness has well described it, is one of which you and I are the joint trustees, and I feel sure that, on your side, as upon mine, no pains will be spared in order to keep it intact.

Your Highness has welcomed Lady Lansdowne and myself to your capital in the kindest possible terms. Let me take this opportunity of saying that I have, ever since my arrival in India, looked forward to a visit to the Hyderabad State, and to making the personal acquaintance of its Ruler. Within a few days—I am not sure that I should not be correct if I were to say within a few hours—of the time when I landed in Bombay, in the autumn of 1888, I received from His Highness a very cordial invitation to Hyderabad. If I have hitherto been prevented from availing myself of that invitation, it has been due to engagements and calls upon my time which it would have been difficult for me to avoid; but I may say that I have never, for a moment, contemplated allowing my term of office to come to a close before I had complied with the wish which His Highness had so kindly expressed.

I desired to come here, not only on account of the personal regard which I feel for His Highness the Nizam, but also because, believing, as I do, that it is one of the duties of the Queen's representative in India to see something of the principal States which form a part of her Indian Empire, I should certainly have felt that that duty had been very incompletely performed, so long as I omitted to accord to this State that recognition which is implied in a visit from the Viceroy.

I dwell upon this consideration because I yield to none of my predecessors in my desire to treat with the respect which is due to them the Indian States in subordinate alliance with Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. I have always recognized the advantages of the arrangement under which a considerable portion of the Indian Empire continues to be

Banquet at Hyderabad.

governed by its hereditary rulers, and to be subject to forms of administration, differing, to a considerable extent, from our own, but inspired by our proximity, and stimulated by our example. No one would be more averse than I should be to any changes in our relations with the Native States inconsistent with the measure of local autonomy which they now enjoy. It is because I entertain these feelings so strongly that I am anxious to see the government of these States carried out upon sound principles, and in such a manner as to place it beyond the power of any one to say that the Government of India, in arresting, as it has striven to arrest, the process by which the greater part of the territories of India were passing under the direct rule of the Crown, showed itself unmindful of the welfare of the millions of people who still remain outside the limits of British India.

Nowhere is it more important that the Government of an Indian State by an Indian ruler should be successful than in Hyderabad. His Highness the Nizam rules over an area of 100,000 square miles, and a population of over 11 millions of human beings. It is, perhaps, instructive, in order to give ourselves a correct idea of the importance of the State, to recall the fact that its population is about five times that of the kingdom of Denmark, and considerably more than double the population of the Netherlands, that of Norway and Sweden, and that of Turkey in Europe, while it is also considerably more than double that of the whole of the great island continent of Australia, and of that of the vast dominion of Canada, in which I had, for some years, the honour of representing Her Majesty. His Highness' territories comprise some of the richest in natural resources of any in India, and it is not too much to say that, given a Government founded upon justice and personal security there is no reason why the State should not be, what His Highness I am sure desires it to be, an exemplar to the rest.

And if it be true to say this of the State, I think I am justified in adding that there is no Ruler whom, upon per-

Banquet at Hyderabad.

sonal grounds, the Government of India is more desirous of supporting and encouraging in the discharge of his onerous duties than His Highness the Nizam. I have had the advantage of meeting several of those who have had official relations with him, and they are all agreed in bearing witness to the personal qualities which have attracted to him the sympathy and good-will of those with whom he has been brought into contact. It is satisfactory to know that he has, on more than one occasion, shown by his acts that he is sincerely anxious to do his duty as the Ruler of this important State. I may refer, in illustration of my meaning, to the liberality with which the support of the State has been given to such useful measures as the improvement of the water-supply of Secunderabad, and to the public spirit shown by His Highness in connection with the appointment of the Chloroform Commission, ably presided over by Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrie—an enquiry which has already produced scientific results of importance, and which shows that His Highness is prepared to recognize the claims of a philanthropy transcending the limits of his own possessions.

His Highness is, however, only at the beginning of his career as a Ruler. Those who have watched over its inception, and are now awaiting its development, will be the first to admit that, during the first years of his rulership, it was natural, and in accordance with the dictates of prudence, that he should proceed cautiously, and familiarize himself with the circumstances of his people, before taking more vigorous strides along the path of reform. We may, however, be permitted to look forward to the time when, his ideas having been matured, he will be in a position to impress them upon others, and to undertake measures which will leave their mark upon the State, and entitle him to the lasting gratitude of his subjects.

I have the best reasons for knowing that His Highness has lately bestowed much earnest thought upon the position

Banquet at Hyderabad.

and affairs of his State, and that our expectations are not likely to be disappointed. I believe I am right in saying that His Highness was advised at the time of his accession, by one of my predecessors, to look carefully to his finances. That was a very sound piece of advice, not because large cash balances, or vast hoards of treasure, are, in themselves productive of good, but because a solvent exchequer is the indispensable condition of fruitful and beneficent administration. No Government, from the Government of India downwards, can succeed, unless its liabilities are punctually fulfilled, unless it is able to remunerate adequately the services of those whom it employs, and unless it can devote an adequate part of its finances to the development of the natural resources of the country. But this is not all. It is one of the misfortunes to which we are exposed in India that income derived from land revenue is, owing to the climatic conditions of the country, and to other causes, always liable to serious fluctuations. Your Highness' State is no exception to the rule. This is a point which Your Highness and your advisers cannot, any more than the Government of India, afford to lose sight of. It is a fact which obliges you, as it does us, to regulate your expenditure in such a manner as to ensure, one year with another, a reasonable margin of income over expenditure. The temptation to which we are all exposed, under such conditions, is that of allowing expenditure to rise to the level of the full revenue of the best and most prosperous years. I need not dwell upon the perils by which such a policy must be attended. The expenditure of the Hyderabad State amounts to a very large sum; whether that sum, in view of the elements of uncertainty in the revenue, is in excess of what the State can afford, or whether the whole of it is expended in the best possible manner, are questions which merit, and which are I know receiving, the earnest consideration of Your Highness.

I have heard with the greatest satisfaction that Your

Banquet at Hyderabad.

Highness has in contemplation considerable reforms in the military administration of the State. Your Highness' decision to take up this question is interesting to me for several reasons, and for one reason in particular. We are all aware that several of the Indian States have placed a portion of their forces under special discipline for purposes of Imperial defence. Now, I believe I am right in saying that it was from Hyderabad that the first offer of a contribution towards the defences of the Empire proceeded, and I am aware that comments have been made upon the fact that, although this was the case, nothing has yet been done. It has, I believe, been supposed in some quarters that the fault lay with the Government of India, and, in others, that it lay with the Hyderabad State. Now, I am glad to have this opportunity of stating publicly that I do not believe that it has ever been in Your Highness' contemplation to recede from the offer which you made in 1887—an offer which, let me say, undoubtedly produced a very considerable effect upon other Indian States. But I am able to go further and to say that, since my arrival here, Your Highness spontaneously, and without any reference to the subject from me, has made me an unconditional offer of a regiment of cavalry, specially selected from the existing troops, for purposes of Imperial defence—an offer which Your Highness is ready to supplement after a suitable interval of time by the contribution of a second regiment. There is no mystery whatever as to the circumstances in consequence of which no action has yet been taken in connection with this matter. I have, on several occasions, publicly explained the policy of the Government of India with regard to these Imperial Service Troops. We found that there were certain States in which it was possible to substitute, for a portion of the State troops, a body of men, recruited within the State, and officered by natives of the State, so well trained, so thoroughly equipped, and under such a good discipline as to render them fit to take their place, in time of war, alongside

Banquet at Hyderabad.

of our own battalions. Such a substitution was clearly of advantage both to the State concerned and to the Government of India. It was of advantage to the Government of India, which obtained a small addition to the forces available for mobilisation in time of war. It was also of advantage to the State concerned, because an opportunity was afforded for getting rid of troops who were often of very indifferent quality, in spite of the expense involved in their maintenance, and replacing them by properly trained and disciplined soldiers.

In the Hyderabad State, however, the position was unlike that obtaining in any other State. In the first place we had the fact that that distinguished corps the Hyderabad Contingent, as well as the Secunderabad force, were practically maintained at His Highness' expense, and, in the next place, we had to consider that His Highness' military forces already amounted to more than 30,000 men, involving a military budget of some 70 lakhs of rupees. Of this large sum no less than 52 lakhs is, I understand, spent upon the irregular troops. Now, in the face of these circumstances, and while this large body of comparatively untrained and indifferently disciplined soldiers continued to be maintained at the expense of the State, to say nothing of the large bodies of men included in the ranks of the regular army, the Government of India did not feel justified in encouraging Your Highness to add still further to your military expenditure by providing additional troops for Imperial defence. The only condition on which, in view of what I have just said, we could accept an Imperial Service Corps from Hyderabad, was that its creation should be coupled with a sufficient reduction of the military expenditure already incurred. That is, I understand, for all practical purposes, the very policy which, after giving the matter your personal consideration, Your Highness has determined to adopt. It is in your contemplation that your Imperial Service Cavalry should be selected from the existing force of that arm.

Banquet at Hyderabad.

The change will, I hope, be carried out in such a way as to occasion no additional expense to the State, which will, I trust, gain in the reductions which it is proposed to effect what it will lose by the increased charges incurred on account of the new cavalry regiment. I do not, of course, for a moment, intend to suggest that such reductions should be carried out in a sudden, violent, manner, and without due regard for the interests of those concerned. The matter is one requiring careful treatment, and the methods to be adopted should, if sure, be gradual and cautious in their operation.

I have spoken with absolute frankness upon this subject because I am most anxious that there should be no misconception as to Your Highness' position and ours with regard to the formation of a Hyderabad Imperial Service Corps, and, next, because I believe that, whether such a corps is to be formed or not, the question of the military expenditure incurred in Your Highness' State is one which Your Highness is doing well to examine carefully. What is given to superfluous military expenditure is taken away from such objects as the improvement of communications; the development of railways, the extension of irrigation works, and other forms of expenditure which are reproductive, and which will add to the well-being of Your Highness' subjects, and to the wealth and reputation of the State.

I rejoice to know that these matters are already engaging Your Highness' attention, and that it is, therefore, not necessary that I should press them upon your consideration. In dealing with them Your Highness may count upon the support of the Government of India, and upon the assistance and advice of the British Resident. You will find in Mr. Plowden a sagacious and trustworthy counsellor, who will not fail to merit your confidence. It has fallen to my lot on two occasions to select a British Resident for the Hyderabad State. Your Highness will remember that the

Banquet at Hyderabad.

late Resident, Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, at the time of his appointment, held the high office of Chief Commissioner of Assam, but so anxious was I to place here a British officer whose position and antecedents would entitle him to your confidence and respect that I did not hesitate to transfer Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick from his important charge in order to bring him here. Now that he has been removed to the distinguished position which he is at present filling, as head of the Punjab Government, he has been replaced by a gentleman who has been selected after the most careful consideration as being specially fitted for the post. He has had experience of a varied and exceptional character, both in the Secretariat of the Government of India, in important Indian States, and as a local administrator. He enjoys the unstinted confidence of the Government of India, and I know that nothing will give him greater satisfaction than to feel that he is able to assist Your Highness in the discharge of the arduous duties which fall to your lot as the Ruler of this important State. (*Applause.*)

ADDRESS FROM THE PEOPLES' ASSOCIATION OF SECUNDERABAD.

8th Nov. 1892.

[On Tuesday morning, the 8th November, the Viceroy received, at the Chadarghat Residency, a deputation, representing the Peoples' Association of Secunderabad, who presented him with an address of welcome, to which His Excellency replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—I thank you for the welcome which you have offered to me on behalf of the Peoples' Association of Secunderabad.

You have explained to me that your Association has been formed for the purpose of providing a medium of communication between the people and the authorities, and that your governing body is elected from members representing every class of the community. I can well conceive that such an organization, if properly and carefully constituted, should serve a useful purpose, and should afford a convenient means of giving expression to the maturely considered wishes and requirements of the civil population.

For such an Association a suitable place of meeting is indispensable. I am glad to hear that you have been successful in acquiring a convenient domicile, and I take note of your kind expression of regret that it should not have been possible for me, within the limits of the time at my disposal, to meet you there and to declare it open.

It is satisfactory to find that you are able to point to the fact that three out of the four important measures of local administration, to which you thought it necessary to refer when addressing my predecessors, have already been carried out. I understand that you are about to bring before the Resident the last of the four requests, namely, that for a separation of the Municipal Government of Secunderabad from that of the Military Cantonment. This question is one which presents considerable difficulties, and you will, I feel sure, excuse me from expressing any opinion with regard to it, until you have thoroughly dis-

Address from the Mysore Municipality.

cussed the matter with the Resident, in whom you have, with excellent reason, expressed your entire confidence.

Your suggestion that the new water works should be called after Mr. Plowden's predecessor, the present Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, seems to me a natural and proper one. I am well aware of the interest taken by Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick in the well-being of this neighbourhood, and it seems to me proper that his name should be commemorated in the manner which you have proposed. I have already had an opportunity of publicly acknowledging the liberal manner in which the Hyderabad State gave encouragement to this most important public work.

It only remains for me to express the pleasure which it has given me to meet you, and to be assured by you of your devotion and loyalty to the person and government of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress.

To quote the concluding words of your address I shall certainly retain a kindly remembrance of the people of Secunderabad.

ADDRESS FROM THE MYSORE MUNICIPALITY.

10th November
1892.

[On Thursday afternoon, the 10th November, Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne arrived at Mysore, and were received at the Railway Station by the Maharaja, his principal officers, Colonel Henderson, the Resident, and many civil and military officials. *En route* to Government-House (where Their Excellencies were the guests of His Highness during their stay), the Members of the Mysore Municipality presented Lord Lansdowne with an address of welcome, to which His Excellency replied as follows:—]

Mr. President and Members of the Mysore Municipality,—It gives me much pleasure to acknowledge the loyal sentiments expressed in your address towards Her Majesty the Queen-Empress of India, and I must add my own and Lady Lansdowne's thanks for the welcome with which you have received us in the capital of the Mysore State.

I rejoice that you should be able to tell me that I have arrived here at a time when the trouble with which you were threatened during the past summer may be said to have completely disappeared.

I hope, during the next few days, to see something of the numerous improvements which have been effected in your city during the reign of His Highness the Maharaja, to whom you refer in terms which leave me in no doubt as to the esteem and respect in which he is held by his subjects.

It will be specially agreeable to Lady Lansdowne, whose interest in the philanthropic movement, commenced by Lady Dufferin, you have appropriately mentioned, to see the Maharani Hospital, which confers such inestimable advantages upon the women and children of the neighbourhood.

The educational institutions of Mysore have achieved an honorable reputation, and I believe that His Highness proposes that we should visit the Maharani Girls' School, to which you have particularly called my attention. Permit me

Address from the Mysore Municipality.

to add that, of the many interesting sights which met my eyes during our journey from the station, none impressed me more than the great concourse of bright and intelligent-looking school children, who gave us such a hearty reception just before we reached this spot.

I rejoice to know that you are able to bear witness to the general progress which has been achieved of late, not only in the capital, but throughout the Mysore State. I believe we should be perfectly justified in ascribing to the extension of public works, and notably to that of your Railway system, the success with which the recent scarcity was combated by the Mysore Darbar.

I feel, no doubt, that I shall carry away with me nothing but pleasant recollections of my visit to this State.

BANQUET AT MYSORE.

On the evening of the 11th November the Maharaja of Mysore entertained their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne and about 60 guests at dinner at the Jagon Mohini Palace. At the conclusion of dinner His Highness appeared and took a seat near the Viceroy.]

11th Nov. 1892.

The Maharajah proposed the health of the Queen Empress, and, after a short interval, His Highness proposed Their Excellencies' health. He began by expressing his gratification at their visit to Mysore, and went on to say that, compared with all governments, ancient or modern, the claim of the British Government to the gratitude of the people, consisted essentially in its adoption of the high ideal, that the end of government was in the happiness of the governed. His Highness' ambition had always been to endeavour to realise this ideal by advancing the happiness of his people. The Maharajah believed that, in this way, he would be making the best possible return for those spontaneous acts of British generosity to which he owed the restoration

Banquet at Mysore.

of his house to the throne of Mysore. In accepting a force of Mysore Cavalry for Imperial Defence, His Highness recognised a fresh proof of the consideration of the British Government towards him. The Mysore Horse had done good service in the past, and should occasion again arise for their employment for Imperial purposes, he was sure they would be found worthy of their proud traditions as descendants of those who shared with the British troops, and under the eye of England's greatest General, the glories of Assaye and Argaum. In the person of Lord Lansdowne, His Highness welcomed the august representative of the Great Queen-Empress and an Imperial Statesman whose valuable services to his country, rendered in the West, derived fresh lustre from the progressive and beneficent character of his rule in India. The Marchioness of Lansdowne had earned for herself the affection of the people by her support of the philanthropic movement started by Lady Dufferin.

[His Highness' speech was warmly applauded throughout.

His Excellency the Viceroy then rose and spoke as follows :—]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I must, in the first place, express the pleasure with which I have listened to His Highness' loyal speech, and to his eloquent reference to the historical occasions upon which the Mysore State gave practical proofs of its fidelity to the British Crown.

I have, also, to thank His Highness for the kind terms in which he has proposed my health, and for his graceful reference to Lady Lansdowne, and to the interest which she takes in the useful movement commenced by Lady Dufferin.

It is a very great pleasure to me to find myself his guest and to see something of his State. Its position is, in many respects, unlike that of any other Indian State.

Eleven years ago Her Majesty's Government, after administering the Mysore State for half a century, and after expending much thought and pains, in order to place its

Banquet at Mysore.

affairs upon a sound footing, determined to replace it in the charge of an Indian Ruler. The step was a most momentous one, and the responsibility of those by whom it was taken was very serious indeed. I am glad to bear witness to the fact that, to the best of my belief, His Highness has never given us cause to regret the decision carried out in 1881 by Lord Ripon's Government. The Mysore State, far from adding to our cares and anxieties, has been administered with much success ; its people are contented with their position, and its Ruler has shewn by his acts that he was worthy of the trust reposed in him. If the result had been different His Highness the Maharajah would certainly have been held accountable. The result having been what it is he is entitled to the most liberal measure of credit. He has proved himself an intelligent and upright Ruler, who has, from the commencement of his reign, shown himself alive to the duties of his position. His Highness has received an education which has enabled him to profit by the culture and wider political ideas of the West, but he has not lost touch of his own people, or forfeited their confidence ; and there is probably no State in India where Ruler and ruled are on more satisfactory terms, or in which the great principle, upon which His Highness has insisted, that government should be for the happiness of the governed, receives a greater measure of practical recognition.

There is, perhaps, no better test of the soundness of an Administration than its ability to pass, without discredit, through a period of exceptional difficulty. The Mysore State has lately encountered such a trial, and has, I am glad to say, surmounted it successfully. The failure of the rainfall last year threatened, at one moment, to lead to a reappearance of the calamities which befel this part of India in the years 1876-77 and 1878, but so effectual were the measures taken by your Highness' direction that your Minister, of whose energy and administrative capacity I am

Banquet at Mysore.

able to speak in the highest terms, has been able to report to you that, during the period of scarcity, the death-rate did not rise above the normal, and that there were no deaths clearly traceable to starvation. But this was not all. Advantage was taken of the opportunity thus offered, in order to set on foot a system of relief works, under which the water-supply available for the use of your Highness' subjects has been permanently improved, with the result of largely diminishing the danger to be apprehended from future periods of scarcity. No expenditure of public money is more useful than that upon irrigation wells in districts liable to drought; and the system of making advances to the ryots, for this purpose, upon easy terms, is one which has had excellent results in other parts of India, and which Your Highness has certainly done well to encourage.

There is another matter to which I must refer in this connection. At the time of the earlier period of scarcity, to which I referred just now, only 50 miles of Railway were open within Your Highness' State. You have now no less than 364 miles open for traffic, whilst 50 miles more are under construction. There can, I think, be no question that this large addition to the Railway mileage of Mysore has been, and will be, the means of affording the population additional security from the disasters of famine.

I believe I am right in saying that, since Your Highness' accession, no less than 150 lakhs of rupees have been spent on the Mysore State Railway alone, and I rejoice to hear that your Government contemplates further extensions, in addition to those already in progress, with the object of bringing Mysore into direct communication with the Western seaboard.

In many other directions, His Highness the Maharajah has shown himself mindful of the best interests of the people committed to his charge. Good progress has been made with the important work of revenue settlement, which was only half completed when His Highness succeeded;

Banquet at Mysore.

new roads have been constructed; hospitals and dispensaries have been opened; attention has been paid to the improvement of the breeds of cattle; the enterprise of the miner and the planter have been encouraged. Last, but not least, the State has liberally encouraged educational institutions; and I may refer with special interest to the schools for girls, with which the name of Her Highness the Maharani will always be honourably connected.

I have also to express my acknowledgments of the manner in which His Highness has placed a portion of his troops under special discipline, in order to qualify them to take their place alongside of ours for the defence of the Empire. I am glad to think that that portion of the outlay which has been appropriated for the Imperial service troops has been the means of adding to the resources of the Empire, as well as to the efficiency of the Mysore army, without imposing an excessive burden upon the exchequer of the State.

There is one other matter as to which I should like to say a few words before I sit down. I have watched, with the utmost interest, the valuable experiment which His Highness has instituted in the formation of the Consultative Council known as "The Dasara Representative Assembly." This Council has been in existence ever since His Highness' accession, and, of late years, he has increased its numbers and has invited the various local Boards, Municipalities, and public associations to depute members to it. More recently still the wealthier classes of the community have been permitted to choose a certain proportion of the members, and I understand that the qualification for membership has been fixed so as to include not only those who are the largest landholders, and the most representative merchants and traders, but that, in certain cases, the possession of a high education has been recognised as, in itself, a qualification.

His Highness has found that his hands have been materi-

Address from the Mysore Representative Assembly.

ally strengthened by the deliberations of the public body thus constituted, and I sincerely congratulate him upon the result of the experiment. It is one which possesses a particular interest for me, because, as you are aware, the Government of India is, at this moment, itself engaged in a very interesting attempt to increase the numbers, and to enlarge the functions, of our own Legislative Councils. His Highness, in his desire to inform himself of the feelings of the leading classes and people of Mysore has, it seems to me, acted with true statesmanlike instincts. I trust that he will continue in this, and other respects, to govern the State in the enlightened spirit by which his rule has hitherto been characterised, and I am glad to have this opportunity of publicly assuring him of the good-will and approval of the Government of India. (*Applause*).

ADDRESS FROM THE MYSORE REPRESENTATIVE
ASSEMBLY.

12th Nov. 1892.

[On Saturday, November 12th, at noon, several deputations waited on the Viceroy at Government House, Mysore, to present His Excellency with addresses of welcome. The deputations came on behalf of the Mysore Representative Assembly, the South Mysore Planters' Association, the Coorg Planters' Association, the Coorgs, and the representatives of the Sringeri Guru, or spiritual head of the Mysore Hindu Community. The members of each deputation, as they came up, were introduced to the Viceroy by Colonel Henderson, C.S.I., the Resident. The various topics touched upon in the addresses will be apparent from His Excellency's replies. In replying to the deputation from the Mysore Representative Assembly the Viceroy spoke as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—It gives me much pleasure to meet the members of the Mysore Representative Assembly.

I have already publicly expressed the interest which I feel in this important public body. The manner in which His Highness the Maharajah has, from the time when the Assembly was first called into existence, at his accession,

Address from the Mysore Representative Assembly.

watched over and fostered its development, reflects the greatest credit upon the statesmanlike instincts of His Highness, and I feel sure that the fact that of its constitution being, to some extent, based upon the principle of representation, will greatly add to the weight of its deliberations, and to the respect with which its suggestions will be received.

The inquiries which I have made from those who are best able to judge have satisfied me that your proceedings have served a most useful purpose, and have brought His Highness' Government into touch with all classes of the community. I have heard with much pleasure that your discussions have been conducted in a thoroughly practical spirit, and that, on the one hand, the members have not hesitated to bring forward grievances, where grievances were supposed to exist, while, on the other, the Dewan has dealt in the frankest possible manner with the suggestions which have been made.

You are quite right in supposing that this remarkable experiment has a special interest in my eyes, because the Government of India is, at this moment, engaged in introducing considerable changes in the constitution and functions of our own Legislative Councils.

I shall be glad to hear that your efforts to procure a measure of reform, in regard to Infant Marriages, are successful. The subject is one of very great difficulty. The Government of India has, as you are aware, given practical proof of its desire to protect immature children. But, in passing the measure to which I refer, a measure which appeared to us to be required in the interests of humanity, the Government of India did not attempt to interfere with the domestic institutions of this country as such. We feel that it is mainly to the spontaneous action of the people, whether within, or without, the limits of British India, that we must look for social reforms of the kind which you desire to effect.

Addresses from South Mysore and Coorg Planters' Associations.

Allow me again to congratulate you on the success with which the recent scarcity has been combated. The prompt and vigorous action taken under His Highness' direction deserves the commendation which it has received at your hands.

I trust that the Representative Assembly will continue to assist the Ruler, and the Government, of the State in the conduct of its affairs, and that it will always be inspired by the loyal feelings which you have been good enough to express upon the present occasion.

ADDRESSES FROM THE SOUTH MYSORE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION AND THE COORG PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

12th Nov. 1892. [The Addresses from the South Mysore Planters' Association, and the Coorg Planters' Association, were taken together by His Excellency who replied to them as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—It may be convenient that, as the points dealt with in these two addresses are, to some extent, identical, I should make one statement in reply to them both.

Let me begin by assuring you that it gives me very great pleasure to meet the members of the combined Planting Associations of Mysore, and of the Coorg Planters' Association. You are the representatives of industries to which this part of India owes much of its prosperity, and I am the first to admit that you have a right to avail yourself of my presence here, in order to lay before me any matters, in the treatment of which you have a special interest.

Both associations have called my attention to the operation of the Labour Act of 1859, and have memorialised the Government of India upon this subject. I shall take care that the views which you have expressed receive careful consideration, and I have no doubt that it will be possible.

Addresses from Mysore and Coorg Planters' Associations.

to furnish you with an early decision upon the points at issue.

I observe that the Mysore Durbar has suggested that offences committed under Act XIII should be included in the schedule referred to in Section II of the Extradition Act, so that Criminal processes issuing in the Mysore Courts should be included in British India, in the same manner as if such processes had been issued in British Courts. That is a proposal requiring careful scrutiny, and I would rather reserve my judgment upon it. I may say, however, that it gives me much pleasure to observe that the Mysore planters have been careful to make it clear that any amendment of the law should be carried out in such a manner as to guard effectually the interests of both the employer and his labourers. The Act in question is one of which the principle has been, not infrequently, assailed, and any attempt to render its provisions more stringent would certainly be regarded, in many quarters, with suspicion.

All legislation affecting labour, particularly that legislation which gives to the employer a remedy against the person of his employé, raises questions of some difficulty, and we should, I am sure, all of us, deprecate changes of the law which might have the effect of creating in India, or elsewhere, a feeling that it was unduly favourable to one of the parties concerned.

The next point which is mentioned in both addresses is the question of the extension of Railway communication to the West coast. A study of the map and a perusal of the papers which have been submitted to me, leave no room for doubt that such extension would be advantageous, and I trust that we may look forward to it. I understand that the Mysore Durbar, whose co-operation was clearly necessary before any line could be promoted, or surveyed, has hitherto been prevented from taking up any of these projects owing to the large expenditure upon other lines

Addresses from Mysore and Coorg Planters' Associations.

to which it was already committed. It has now, I am glad to hear, expressed its willingness to share with the Madras Government the cost of surveying several of the proposed routes, and it is prepared to construct its own portion of any line which may ultimately be approved. Some of these lines would certainly serve a useful purpose, both for the protection of the country against famine, and also for the development of its industrial resources.

Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to see some of these projects taken up by private Companies which, if the facts are as you have stated them in a Memorial which has lately been submitted to the Government of India, should certainly find the enterprise a remunerative one. I should be wanting in candour were I to lead you to expect that the Government of India is likely, in the near future, either itself to construct, or to guarantee, any of these projects. The resources at our disposal are, as you know, limited, and are hypothecated for some time to come.

As to guarantees, I could, I think, give you excellent reasons for which, in common prudence, the time has come when we ought to hold our hand. These are, however, questions which do not yet arise in reference to the Railways in which you are specially interested; the first step which is necessary is to obtain proper surveys of the country, and these are, I am glad to know, likely to be undertaken without loss of time.

I will now refer briefly to two or three points which have been specially mentioned in the Coorg Planters' address.

You have spoken of your desire to see an increased allotment given for your Public Works Department. I take note of that wish, and it shall be borne in mind when the proposals of the Chief Commissioner are submitted to the Government of India next month. You will, however, I trust, not lose sight of the fact that the year 1893-4 is likely

Addresses from South Mysore and Coorg Planters' Associations.

to be one in which the Government of India will encounter very serious financial difficulties, and I am afraid I must say that, at no moment, has it ever been more necessary for us to exercise the closest possible vigilance over our expenditure in all departments.

In the next place, gentlemen, you have expressed your wish that you should be given a separate European Police Superintendent. I understand that it is hoped that sufficient precautions will have been taken for the protection of your property, if you are given a specially selected and efficient head-quarters Inspector under the strict control of an active District Magistrate.

Gentlemen,—Your address concludes with the expression of your hope that the Government of India will not introduce a Gold Standard, or interfere with the natural downward tendency of silver. This grave and intricate question is scarcely fit for discussion on an occasion like the present, but I should like to invite your earnest attention to a letter recently addressed by the Government of India in the Finance Department, to the Tea Planters of Darjeeling, in which we have discussed at some length the effects of the downward tendency of silver upon an industry somewhat resembling yours. I will venture to ask you to bear in mind that this matter is one which requires to be looked at, not from the point of view of one industry, or group of industries, but in reference to the interests of the whole community. No fortuitous advantage which any particular trade may, for a time, derive under a falling exchange, can be allowed to weigh against the general injury and loss resulting to the trade of the Indian Empire, as a whole, from fluctuations and uncertainty in the rate of exchange. Had time permitted, I should have been almost tempted to ask you whether I was to understand that you wished us to abstain from interference, no matter at what pace, or to what extent, the downward progress of the rupee might continue. It will, however, perhaps

Address from the Coorgs.

be sufficient if, speaking for myself, I say that, as the Indian Empire does most of its commercial business with countries in which a Gold Standard obtains, it appears to me that it would be for the general advantage that India should be provided with a currency, of which the gold value would no longer be subject to the fluctuations which have, for some years past, unsettled our commercial system, and discouraged the investment of Capital in this country.

I have now only to express the pleasure which it has given me to meet the members of both Associations, and to thank them for the expressions of good-will and loyalty contained in their addresses.

ADDRESS FROM THE COORGs.

12th Nov. 1892.

[In reply to the Address from the Coorgs, His Excellency said :—]

Gentlemen,—It has given me much pleasure to receive your address and to listen to the expressions of your loyalty and devotion to Her Majesty, the Queen-Empress.

It would have been most agreeable to me, had the time at my disposal permitted me to pay a visit to your country. I have always been specially interested in it, and in its hardy and independent population. It may perhaps interest you to know that one of my first official acts after my arrival in India, at the end of the year 1888, had reference to the proposal which was made to us at that time for the transfer of Coorg to Madras. There was no reason to doubt that the Madras Government would deal fairly with the Coorgs, and administer their country upon sound principles, but a perusal of the papers satisfied me that the Coorgs themselves took a certain pride in being immediately under the Government of India. The case seemed to me to be one in which it was fair to attach some weight to sentimental considerations, and in which it was

Address from the George.

unwise to disturb existing arrangements, or to alter the established political status where it was acceptable to the people most concerned. It was accordingly decided that you should remain under our direct management, and I, therefore, fully recognise that it is natural for you to take advantage of my presence in order to address me as to matters in which you are interested.

I do not think it necessary to say anything on the subject of Railway extension beyond what I have said just now in answering addresses from your Planters' Association, and that of the Mysore Planters.

Your suggestion that the rule prohibiting the alienation of jama land should be relaxed was recently submitted to the Government of India, and although I shall be glad to consider any reasonable relaxation of the existing and ancient rule that may be recommended by the local authorities concerned, I am under the impression that we were justified in holding that the revision of the rule was not expedient. The position of the jama ryots is a peculiar one. Their land is assessed at half the ordinary rate, and, in return for the remitted moiety, the holders are liable to be called out on occasion for police and other duties.

The rule under which jama land is inalienable was clearly intended for the protection of the ryots in the favourable position which they occupy. An alteration of the rule would, it seems to me, be certainly fraught with danger to the jama ryots themselves. I have been much impressed, during my residence in India, by the manner in which the cultivators of the soil have been affected, owing to the ease with which land can, under British Law, be mortgaged, or alienated. Proposals are, at this moment, before the Government of India for affording special protection to holders of land from these very dangers, and I should, therefore, deprecate any hasty abandonment of existing securities where they are to be found.

I am glad to be able to inform you that the approaching

Address from the Coorgs.

Revenue Settlement will be conducted with all due regard to the quality of the land assessed, and to the principles of the tenures existing from ancient time.

You will, I have no doubt, submit to the Chief Commissioner your proposals with regard to the taxation of Bane lands. I should be sorry to express a confident opinion upon the point, without a knowledge, to which I cannot pretend, of this and other local customs. I understand, however, that Bane land is granted free of assessment for purposes other than that of cultivation, and it seems to me that, where it is cultivated, it may fairly be held to be liable to taxation. I am told that holders of Bare land, granted prior to 1886, who have planted portions of it with coffee, have been permitted, as a special indulgence, to hold 10 acres free from assessment, and that it is only the area cultivated in excess of this that is fully assessed. These rules were, I believe, drawn up after most careful investigation by my friend Sir James Lyall, with whom I have often talked about the affairs of Coorg, and who took a very warm interest in the welfare of its inhabitants.

I have made inquiries with regard to your suggestion that the Reserve Forests should be opened for cattle-grazing. I am assured that grazing is already permitted in the Reserve, without charge, to those who have grazing rights, and to others on payment of the usual fee. I feel sure that no policy would be more short-sighted than to throw open the Reserve Forests indiscriminately. It is necessary, in the interests of the ryots themselves, that steps should be taken to ensure that the forest areas shall be regularly grazed over in rotation, so as to ensure a continual supply of fodder. I will ask you to remember that, not only here, but in all parts of the country, the Government of India has no desire to administer forests, except for the benefit of the population adjoining them.

It is our object that forest administration should be conducted with the utmost regard to the comfort and conveni-

Address from the Sringri Guru of Mysore.

ence of the cultivators, but, unless proper measures are taken to protect the forests of India from destruction, the country, as a whole, will suffer greatly. In some parts of India, the injury done is already irretrievable. Where forests still exist, we are determined to manage them as trustees for the whole community, and nothing is further from our intentions than to encourage anything like arbitrary, or oppressive, treatment of persons possessing grazing rights, or otherwise entitled to the use of forest products.

Allow me, in conclusion, to thank you for the kind manner in which you have welcomed Lady Lansdowne and myself. I have no doubt that we shall find our sojourn in Mysore most agreeable and instructive.

ADDRESS FROM THE SRINGRI GURU OF MYSORE.

[In replying to the Address from the representatives of the Sringri 12th Nov. 1892.
Guru, the spiritual head of the Hindu Community of Mysore, His Excellency said :—]

Gentlemen,—It has given me great pleasure to receive this deputation, and I have listened with much interest and satisfaction to the loyal words contained in the address presented to me on behalf of the Sringri Guru.

I notice gladly the reference made in that address to the desire of the Government of India to exercise towards the natives of this country the utmost toleration in all religious matters. I have also observed, with pleasure, what has been said as to the conduct of the Government of India in restoring the Mysore State to the family represented by the present Maharajah, who rules the people of Mysore with so much wisdom, and with so great a regard for the well-being of his subjects.

I will ask you to be good enough to convey my thanks to the Sringri Guru for his loyal sentiments, and to tell him he may depend on being treated by the Government of

Distribution of Prizes at the Maharani Girls' School, Mysore.

India with the same consideration which has always been extended to him in past years.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT THE MAHARANI GIRLS' SCHOOL, MYSORE.

12th Nov. 1892. [On the afternoon of Saturday, the 12th November, the Marchioness of Lansdowne distributed prizes to the students of the Maharani Girls' School, Mysore—a very important Educational Institution, numbering 438 girls on its rolls, of which 382 are Brahmins. An excellent programme, comprising recitations in Sanscrit and Canarese, and vocal and instrumental music, was gone through by the students, after which the Hon'ble Mr. Chentsal Row addressed the Assembly. At the conclusion of his remarks, the Viceroy spoke as follows :—]

Your Highness, Ladies and gentlemen,—Neither Lady Lansdowne nor I would like to leave this room without expressing the pleasure which it has given us to visit this school. The Honourable Mr. Chentsal Row, in the interesting speech which he has just delivered, said that one of the advantages to be derived from a Viceregal visit was that it might be made the occasion of a word of encouragement to institutions of this kind. If I can speak such a word of encouragement, no matter how simple, I shall certainly speak it from my heart, and it was with this object that I have risen this afternoon. (*Applause.*)

The Honourable Mr. Chentsal Row made another suggestion, which struck me as a very practical one, with regard to the possibility of opening certain classes of employment to young persons who had received sufficient education at this and other schools. I can assure him that it will give me great pleasure to have that matter thoroughly looked into, although, with that caution which is characteristic of all officials, I must decline to commit myself further upon the subject.

It seems to me that this school is calculated to confer a very great and lasting benefit upon the Mysore State.

Distribution of Prizes at the Maharani Girls' School, Mysore.

I understand that its main object is to provide with a sound education girls of high caste. The majority of the pupils are Brahmins, but the school is open to other girls of good caste and position. We look to persons belonging to the best castes to place themselves in the van of all liberal and enlightened movements, and, for that reason, it seems to me of immense importance that women of high caste, as well as men, should receive a sound and thorough education in schools of this sort. (*Applause.*)

Then there is another most useful function which this school seems designed to perform—I mean that of affording education for young women who intend to adopt the profession of teachers. We shall not have good schools in other parts of the State, unless we can provide them with soundly educated teachers, and this institution is eminently calculated to supply this want. (*Applause.*)

I wish to add, before I leave off, that it gave me very great pleasure to listen this afternoon to the recitations of the pupils. One or two of them were rendered in the English language with great spirit and correctness. Of the rest we were fortunately able to form some sort of a judgment owing to the thoughtfulness of the authorities in providing us with a translation of the Sanscrit and Canarese pieces.

We also listened with much interest to the musical performance of the pupils. Your music does not exactly resemble the music to which we are used, but it has a pathos and character of its own, and I feel sure that the more one heard of it, the more one would appreciate and admire it.

I should like to say that, since I have been here, His Highness has spoken to me, in the strongest possible terms, of the services rendered to this school by Rai Bahadur Narsinianga Durbar Bakshi, whose name was so enthusiastically received when it was mentioned just now by the Hon'ble Mr. Chentsal Row (*applause*). I am glad to

Distribution of Prizes at the Maharani Girls' School, Mysore.

have this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the excellent work which he has done. (*Applause.*)

It remains for me only to wish success to the Maharani Girls' School, and to express the hope that it may prosper and succeed in the charge of Miss Vokins, who has lately taken over the school, bringing with her a high reputation from one of our English Universities. I can only hope that the girls who study here may follow the admirable example which appears to have been set by that Princess Savitri, who was mentioned in one of the Canarese recitations, and who is said to have learnt her lessons eagerly, to have got them up every day without feeling annoyed in the least, and to have even gone the length of reflecting upon them at intervals. I am afraid that a great many of our English school girls do not reflect upon their lessons once they are outside of the school-room. If these young ladies will only take the Princess Savitri for their model in these respects, certainly they will do credit to Miss Vokins and to the Maharani's School. (*Applause.*)

ADDRESS FROM THE CITY MUNICIPALITY,
BANGALORE.

[The Viceroy and the Marchioness of Lansdowne arrived at 22nd Nov. 1892. Bangalore early on the morning of the 22nd November from Mysore. Colonel Henderson, C.S.I., the Resident, with all the principal Civil and Military Officers of Bangalore, were at the Station to receive Their Excellencies. *En route* to the Residency the Viceroy was presented with an address of welcome by the Municipal Commissioners of the city of Bangalore, to which His Excellency replied as follows:—]

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I have to thank you for the welcome which you have offered Lady Lansdowne and myself on the occasion of our visit to Bangalore. It gives me great pleasure to see Municipal Institutions like your Municipality, and that at Mysore, established upon so firm a basis within a Native State, and I have been much gratified in listening to the terms in which you have referred to the rule of your Maharajah. Everything that I have seen since I entered the Mysore State has tended to convince me that, in speaking of His Highness's rule as benign and sympathetic, you are using no empty phrases, and that the efforts of your Maharajah and his advisers are aimed at improving the condition of his subjects and developing the resources of his State. The improvements which have been effected since the State was restored to your present Ruler have, I hope, served to protect it in a great measure from the evils to which it was previously liable from recurring periods of scarcity and famine, and have, in your own words, enabled it to advance with rapid strides in prosperity and enlightenment. I trust that it will be possible before long to remove the hardships from which you at present suffer owing to the want of an efficient water-supply, which I gather from what you say, as well as from what I have heard from other sources, must be urgently needed in your city. I observed while in Mysore

Address from the City Municipality, Bangalore.

that the Capital of your State has been provided with an excellent supply of water by the Municipal Government, and I have no doubt that His Highness will, as soon as you are in a position to decide definitely upon a scheme for the provision of water to your city, be prepared to consider whether he can assist you. I understand that the determination of this question depends to a certain extent upon the action of the Civil and Military Station, and I trust that, now that an officer has been deputed to examine the rival projects for the supply of water to the Station, the Committee will before long be able to determine which scheme to select. I notice that you contemplate as possible a joint scheme by which a plentiful supply of water might be obtained for your city, as well as for the Civil and Military Station. I have heard objections made to such a proposal on the ground that, with a scheme for a joint supply, friction will arise between the two Municipalities as to the distribution of water. It appears to me that, on the face of it, there should not be any insurmountable difficulty in contriving a scheme by which, under the guidance of the Resident, satisfactory arrangements might be made for the distribution of the water between the two Municipalities, and it is, at any rate, worthy of consideration whether, in view of the expenditure involved in the carrying out of two separate schemes, it would not be more prudent for your Committee, and that of the Civil and Military Station, to combine in carrying out a project which would supply you with an abundant supply of good water. I have now only to express the pleasure which it has given us to meet you upon this interesting occasion, and you must allow me to add a few words of thanks for the very beautiful work of art in which you have been kind enough to enclose your address.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION OF
BANGALORE.

[On Tuesday, the 22nd November, at noon, a deputation of the 22nd Nov. 1892.
Civil and Military Commissioners of the Civil and Military Station of
Bangalore waited on the Viceroy at the Residency, and presented him
with an address of welcome, to which His Excellency replied as
follows :—]

Gentlemen,—I have much pleasure in accepting the address with which you have presented me on behalf of the residents of the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore, and in noting the sentiments of loyalty and respect which you have expressed towards Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. I have also to return, on behalf of Lady Lansdowne and myself, our best thanks for the hearty welcome which you have offered us on the occasion of our visit to your station, and for the many tokens of good-will which you were good enough to display upon our route from the station to this house. You have expressed the hope that “the principles of self-government, which are under the consideration of the Government of India, will soon have been so matured that a full measure can be accorded to all public bodies in India,” and you dwell upon the great advantage of the full and free discussion of all matters of public interest—“so long as such discussion is conducted in a spirit of loyalty and respect for law and order.” With this important reservation, I am entirely in sympathy with your wish that all classes of the community should be encouraged to take an interest in questions of public importance, and should be afforded every opportunity of discussing such questions. I have learnt with considerable concern of the present unsatisfactory state of your water-supply, which, I regret to hear, is likely to make itself felt more acutely even than usual, owing to the comparative lightness of the south-west monsoon in Bangalore itself,

Address from the Municipal Commissioners, etc., Bangalore.

and the threatened failure of the north-east monsoon. I am assured upon good authority that the amount of water at present available from the Dharmabady Reservoir, the appearance of which, as we saw it to-day, bears eloquent witness to its inadequacy, would not supply the wants of the Civil and Military Station for more than three months. I can, therefore, readily understand that you should take the opportunity of my presence among you to press upon me the great importance of dealing promptly and effectually with this question. I need not remind you that the Government of India is directly interested in securing a supply of good water for the large garrison of Bangalore. We have, however, experienced very great difficulties, not of our own creation, in deciding upon a scheme which would be satisfactory in all respects. There are, I believe, three principal schemes, known respectively as the Rachenhalli, the Hebbal, and the Maligal, or Magadi Road schemes. Four years ago a strong local Committee reported in favour of the Rachenhalli scheme, which was estimated to cost ten lakhs. The Government of India accepted the recommendation, and, in view of their responsibilities towards the British Cantonment in Bangalore, promised to provide five lakhs, and to lend the remaining five lakhs to your Municipality at a favourable rate. Unfortunately, when the project came to be further examined, it was found to be doubtful whether a sufficiently pure and abundant supply of water could be obtained from the catchment area, and your Committee unanimously objected to the scheme just a year ago. The Government of India are now advised that of the three projects referred to above, the Maligal scheme promises to afford the best supply of water. It is estimated to cost roughly about twenty lakhs in capital outlay, and about two lakhs a year for maintenance. The present position of the matter is that Major Grant, R.E., of the Military Works Department, who is, I am assured, a very capable officer, has been deputed to Bangalore, to examine

Address from the Municipal Commissioners, etc., Bangalore.

the Maligal scheme in detail, and to collect further information regarding the incidental cost of the other two schemes, and the quality of the water-supply which they would be likely to afford. He has been directed to submit his report as early as he can, consistently with a thorough and complete examination of the question. It would manifestly be unwise to incur expenditure on any scheme which would not secure a pure and abundant supply of water, and I therefore earnestly recommend you to lose no time in considering how the money required for the Maligal project might be provided, should Major Grant's investigations prove that it will secure a purer and more abundant supply than either of the other schemes. It is obviously quite impossible for the Government of India to undertake to provide large towns with water wholly at the cost of Imperial Revenues, and if an expensive scheme like this has to be adopted, the inhabitants of this station, and your Committee, must be prepared to give a much larger contribution than Rs60,000 a year, which, I understand, is the limit which you have expressed yourselves able to contribute towards the up-keep of your water-supply. This consideration of expense has suggested to me that perhaps the most satisfactory solution of the difficulty might, after all, be to devise a joint scheme for the provision of water for your station and the adjoining Municipality of Bangalore. I am aware that this is not an original suggestion, and that it has been anticipated that difficulties might arise in the distribution of water from such a joint system of water-supply. I cannot, however, bring myself to believe that it would be impossible, under the direction of the Resident, to make arrangements by which such difficulties might be surmounted, and I must confess that it seems to me that the provision of two separate sources of water-supply for the Civil and Military Station, and the neighbouring Municipality of Bangalore respectively, the combined population of which is, I understand, about 180,000,

Address from the Municipal Commissioners, etc., Bangalore.

would be likely to involve needless expenditure. If, then, your Committee and the neighbouring Municipality were to desire that Major Grant should investigate any such joint scheme, I shall be very happy to agree to his doing so on your representing your wishes to the Resident.

In regard to the Court of Appeal for the Civil and Military Station, you complain that it consists of only one Judge, and while you make "no impeachment" (a phrase which you will allow me to remark in passing is rather a strong one) against any of the officers who have held the post of Resident, you urge that "it has been decided all over Her Majesty's dominions that more than a single trained Judge should sit in such Court." I must point out that you have urged this argument under a misapprehension. In the large provinces of Burma, and in the Central Provinces for instance, the final Court of Appeal consists of a single Judge. I must also remind you that places, such as your station, which form enclaves of British administration in the midst of Native States, are in a peculiar position, and cannot expect to be as well equipped with costly administrative machinery as the Districts of British India proper. I am informed that the number of appeals to the Resident's Court is very small, and has not averaged more than about 15 per annum. The Government of India last year considered a suggestion whether the Appellate work of the station could not be transferred to the High Court at Madras, but the legal and other objections taken to the proposal necessitated its abandonment.

I note your complaint that the Court House and Offices in your station are badly situated and unsuited for the transaction of public business. The question of building new offices is, I believe, under consideration, but I am afraid that financial difficulties may, for the present, prevent the provision of all the accommodation required. Meanwhile this is, I trust, hardly a matter by which your Committee need be seriously troubled.

Address from the Municipal Commissioners, &c., Bangalore.

It is a matter of satisfaction to me to learn that your Station has largely benefited by the recent extension of Railways in Southern India. You will not improbably have read my reply to the representations of the Coorg and Mysore Planters, and the Malabar Chamber of Commerce, regarding the extension of Railway communication between Mysore and the West Coast. It has yet to be determined which would be the best route for a railway between these points, and it is unnecessary for me to add now to what I said upon the subject at Mysore.

It only remains for me once more to thank you for the kind reception which you have given to Lady Lansdowne and myself.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF
MR. MOODELLIAR'S ORPHANAGE AT BANGALORE.

[On the afternoon of the 23rd November, His Excellency the Vice-roy laid the foundation stone of Rai Bahadur Arcot Narainswamy Moodelliar's Orphanage at Bangalore. The proceedings took place in an immense "pandal" erected on the site of the proposed Orphanage. A large number of people were present. On the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne's arrival, Mr. Moodelliar read an address, stating the objects of the building. His Excellency then spoke as follows :—]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—It has given me much pleasure to accept Mr. N. Moodelliar's invitation to take part in this ceremony.

The Orphanage, of which I am about to lay the foundation stone, will form a most useful addition to the charitable institutions of Bangalore. They already owed much to Mr. Moodelliar's generous support. Recognising the want of a school for the education of the children of the station, he built one at a cost of *₹*50,000, adding subsequently three branch schools in Ulsoor.

During the famine of 1877-78, he took under his protection and maintained a large number of orphans. He

Laying the Foundation Stone, Mr. Moodelliar's Orphanage, Bangalore.

also, I am informed, built a rest-house at a cost of Rs25,000, and for the maintenance of all these charitable foundations he has invested a large sum in the securities of the State.

He now proposes to erect this new Orphanage in connection with the High Schools, so that, in the future, the orphans in whom he has taken so thoughtful an interest may not only be maintained, but may receive suitable instruction.

The value of Mr. Moodelliar's charitable efforts have, more than once, been recognised. Some years ago the Government of India conferred upon him the title of Rai Bahadur, and, more recently, His Highness the Maharajah of Mysore, to whose generous support he has referred in his address, has conferred upon him a special honorific title commemorative of his great charity.

It gives me much pleasure upon this occasion to testify by my presence my appreciation of the good and useful work which Mr. Moodelliar has performed. I am glad to bear witness to the liberality with which charitable institutions of all kinds are supported in this part of India, and I trust that Mr. Moodelliar's generosity will lead other wealthy men to follow the example which he has set by his munificence. I will now proceed to lay the foundation stone. (*Applause.*)

ADDRESS FROM THE MADRAS MUNICIPALITY.

[Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Marchioness of Lansdowne 24th Nov. 1892. arrived in Madras at 8-30 A.M. on Thursday, the 24th November, and were received at the Railway Station by His Excellency Lord Wenlock, the Members of his Council, and all the principal Civil and Military Officials of Madras. The members of the Madras Municipality were also present on the platform and presented the Viceroy with an address of welcome, to which His Excellency replied as follows:—]

Gentlemen,—I am extremely obliged to you for the welcome with which you have received me on the occasion of my first visit to the city of Madras. I accept unhesitatingly your statement that there is no part of India in which the illustrious Sovereign, whom I have the honour to represent, is regarded with more affection and loyalty, and I am quite ready to believe that the interest taken in public affairs by your citizens is as keen, and as intelligent, as that of any other section of Her Majesty's subjects.

You have addressed me specially with reference to your earnest desire for an early completion of a proper scheme of drainage and water-supply for the city. I rejoice to find that you are alive to the immense importance of this question. My experience elsewhere renders me well aware of the extent to which your difficulties must be increased, owing to the fact that you are concerned, not only with the city itself, but with the widespreading suburbs which surround it. Several months have now passed since a well known sanitary expert was sent out by the Secretary of State to examine the proposals which had been put forward by the local officers, and I trust that Mr. Cousin's report, will, before long, be in your hands, and may be of assistance to you in deciding what steps are best calculated to meet your requirements. You have dwelt with much force upon the great expense likely to be involved in providing adequately for the supply of so large an area, and it is, no doubt, a most unfortunate dilemma that, in your case, and in many others, the people of our great cities should find

Address from the Madras Municipality.

themselves called upon to choose between high rates, and a clean bill of health, on the one hand, and low rates, with endemic disease, on the other. You have, perhaps, however, needlessly alarmed yourselves by the comparison which you have made between the burdens to which you are subject here, and those borne by the citizens of Calcutta and Bombay. I am informed that the maximum tax leviable on buildings and lands in Madras is 16 per cent. of their annual value, while in Bombay it is 15½ per cent., exclusive of the very heavy, and practically unlimited, rate leviable on account of the magnificent water works, which I had the privilege of opening last spring. In Calcutta the rate is no less than 23 per cent. Nothing would be more agreeable to me than to encourage you to expect that the Government of India would be able to come to your rescue by allowing the Local Government to relieve you of your present contribution to the provincial funds. I am afraid, however, that we are passing through a period in which the resources of the Government of India are likely to undergo a strain, at least as severe as that to which yours are subjected. Of this, at any rate, I am sure, that there never was a moment in which questions of this kind are more likely to be decided upon grounds of strict principle, and without reference to those sentimental considerations which are allowed to have weight in more prosperous seasons. Your contribution of Rs. 50,000 to the provincial funds was, as you will remember, imposed in consequence of a very strong recommendation made by the Finance Committee, which advised us that your Municipality had received assistance from the Local Government to an extent unheard of elsewhere. For these reasons it was thought desirable that a larger share of the burden of local expenditure should be assumed by the Municipality. If that burden were now to be again lightened, this could only be done at the cost of the taxpayers generally, and I am afraid that, as the guardians of

Madras Christian College.

their interests, we should, under present circumstances, scarcely be justified in coming to your assistance.

I shall have an opportunity, during my stay in your city, of explaining my views with regard to the great railway project in which you take so deep an interest, and I will, therefore, reserve for the present what I have to say upon that subject.

It remains for me to notice with satisfaction your reference to the interest which I have taken in the reconstitution of the Legislative Councils. It gives me much pleasure to think that, under the rules which we are now engaged in preparing, the Municipality of Madras will probably be asked to select one of the additional members of the local Legislative Council.

MADRAS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE.

[On Wednesday afternoon, the 24th November, the Viceroy, 24th Nov. 1892. accompanied by Lord Wenlock, visited the Madras Christian College. Their Excellencies were received by the Revd. Dr. Miller, the Principal, and conducted through the various class-rooms, in one of which an address of welcome was read on behalf of the students of the College, to which His Excellency replied as follows :—]

Mr. Principal and Students of the Madras Christian College.—I have to thank you very cordially for the address which has just been read, and you will permit me to add that it seems to me to be a model in respect of conciseness of what an address of this kind ought to be. Your Principal will remember that, when he was good enough to suggest that I should pay you a visit here to-day, I made it a condition that I should not be expected to deliver anything in the shape of a formal speech. The fact is that, during the hard work and distractions of a tour—because I can assure you that a Viceroy's tour is not by any means all play—it is impossible to bestow the thought and attention which are necessary, in order to prepare anything that would be really worth saying to you on the

Madras Christian College.

great subject of education. I was, however, anxious to show my interest in the excellent work which is being done in this institution by coming here, if only for a few moments, and I wish to say how thoroughly I appreciate the services rendered by the Free Church of Scotland, which has here, as well as in other parts of the world, taken an arduous and successful part in promoting the cause of education. (*Applause.*)

I have had a short, but perhaps sufficient, glance at some of the School and College buildings. They seem to me, compared with those in which His Excellency the Governor and I spent our school days, to be very good and suitable, but I believe I am right in saying that you are adding to, and improving, them. I must express the particular interest which I took in the group of buildings which the Principal pointed out to me just now—those, I mean, which are intended for the reception of a certain number of the College students who will be provided there with living rooms, in accordance with the system which prevails in our English schools and colleges, of which we are so proud. That experiment seems to me to be a most valuable one, because it is undoubtedly one of the great difficulties which have to be encountered in educating the youth of India, that we have not the means of providing for anything but their mere instruction while they are actually in the class-room. Anything which can secure to them suitable accommodation, and the supervision of the authorities of their schools and colleges, is an experiment, which is certainly worth trying and I may be permitted, Dr. Miller, to cordially wish your experiment the success which it deserves.

It now only remains for me to thank the students of the College and the Schools for their kindly welcome, and for the many tokens of good-will which we encountered on our way here. I trust that all of them will make it their endeavour, by their earnest attention to their studies

Presidency College, Madras.

here, and by their honourable and conscientious behaviour when they leave the College, to do credit to the institution in which they have been educated. (*Applause.*)

PRESIDENCY COLLEGE, MADRAS.

[After leaving the Madras Christian College, Lord Lansdowne and Lord Wenlock drove to the Presidency College. Here their Excellencies were received by Dr. Duncan, Director of Public Instruction, who conducted them through the various laboratories and class-rooms, and finally to the College Hall, where there was a large gathering of students. In reply to an address of welcome presented by the students His Excellency spoke as follows :—] 25th Nov. 1892.

Gentlemen,—It gives me very great pleasure to meet the staff and students of this distinguished College. During my recent tour, I received at a place, the name of which I need not mention, a very urgent invitation to visit one of the schools, and I was told that the reason why it was wished that I should visit it was because the pupils were very anxious to see "a real live Viceroy." (*Applause and laughter.*) I was unfortunately unable to accept the invitation, but I have no doubt that the young ladies (for I should mention that it was a girls' school) would have been much disappointed if, after all, they had been allowed to feast their eyes on the spectacle of a real live Viceroy. (*Laughter.*) Now when the authorities of this College were kind enough to ask me to spend a few moments here, this afternoon, I was given to understand that you would have been ready to present me with an address of welcome—a step which would have involved, not only seeing, but hearing a real live Viceroy (*laughter*), and I am afraid it is possible that if I had attempted, at short notice, to deliver to you anything like a formal official speech, you would have been as much disappointed at hearing a Viceroy as the young ladies elsewhere would have been at seeing him. (*Applause*

Presidency College, Madras.

and laughter.) Viceroy's speeches are, I fear, apt—and I have been painfully conscious of this lately—to be disappointing, particularly at a time when the finances of the Government of India are threatened with serious difficulties (*laughter*), and when a Viceroy, wherever he goes, has commended to him various excellent and laudable projects, all of them involving pecuniary assistance from the Government of India. (*Laughter.*) But, even if my speech, had I delivered one, had failed to disappoint you in this respect, I should very likely have disappointed you in another way—you would probably have expected me to say something to you about the condition and prospects of higher education in this important Presidency, and particularly in this well known College. (*Applause.*) But, to be perfectly frank with you, I really have not had the time, nor the leisure, to pay any attention to the question of education in the Madras Presidency during the travels which I have undertaken within the last four or five weeks, and, therefore, all that I feel called upon to say to you this evening is that I am very glad indeed to have the opportunity of telling you and the authorities of this College how heartily I appreciate the excellent service which it has rendered to the cause of education during the last half century. (*Applause.*) I understand that somewhere about six hundred of your students have already graduated at the University, and that many of them are occupying honourable and creditable positions. I hope that the College will continue to achieve the success which it has achieved during the last fifty years. (*Applause.*)

I have been much pleased with what I have seen here of your buildings, class rooms, and, more particularly, of your laboratories. I take an interest in the laboratories, not because I pretend to understand anything about science, but because I had the honour of serving for some time upon a Commission presided over by the late Duke of Devonshire, which was appointed to consider, with refer-

Anjuman Workshops, Madras.

ence to English education, whether enough was, or was not done, for scientific education in our own School and University curriculum. We reported very strongly to the effect that the interests of science had been too much neglected, and I am glad to see that, here in Madras, you are not open to that reproach. (*Applause.*)

I have only to say once more how extremely pleased I am to find myself face to face with this large gathering of students. I wish you all success in your College career, and in your career through life, after your studies here have been completed. (*Applause.*)

ANJUMAN WORKSHOPS, MADRAS.

[On Friday afternoon, the 25th November, the Viceroy, accompanied 24th Nov. 1892. by Lord Wenlock and Lady Dormer, visited the Anjuman-i-Islam Workshops in Triplicane. Their Excellencies were received by His Highness the Prince of Arcot and others. In reply to an address read in Urdu by the Secretary, and translated by an official present, the Viceroy spoke as follows:—]

Gentlemen,—I wish to express the pleasure which it has given me to visit this institution. You are quite right in believing that I take a special interest in the subject of technical education. The Government of India has invited the attention of the Local Government to the necessity of giving it a place in their system of public instruction, and I have, more than once, urged its importance, both as a means of encouraging the arts and manufactures of India, and also because it has always appeared to me that our educational system was founded too much upon purely literary studies. The professions for which purely literary studies are preparatory are not numerous, and are much overcrowded, and we are constantly confronted with the difficulties which arise from the fact that there are large numbers of young men who have been educated for official,

Anjuman Workshops, Madras.

or clerical, work, and who are unable to procure such employment after their School or College course has been completed. Much will be gained if we are able to induce a portion of our most intelligent youths to look for a career to the Workshop and the Factory, instead of to the office or the desk, and I am glad to hear that your schools have already provided many of your pupils with the means of earning a livelihood. It must, of course, rest with you to determine what are the most promising openings for your students. I cannot, however, bring myself to believe that such openings do not exist. They are surely to be found in a great Empire like this, passing as it is through a period of material and industrial developments, during which there cannot fail to be work for those who adopt technical, or scientific, as distinguished from clerical and literary, professions. It is almost impossible for us to look forward to a time when it will be possible to say that the railway system of India has been completed, or that nothing more remains to be done in the way of irrigation, or in the way of schemes for the supply of pure water, such as those in which I find almost all our great cities taking so deep an interest. Again, if we turn to the Crafts and Arts, we are confronted with the fact that some of the most elaborate and beautiful work which has ever been executed in metal, in wood, in ivory, and in the textile fabrics, has been done by Indian workmen, and I am glad to say that the value of these masterpieces is becoming more and more recognised in Europe as well as in India. Is it too much to hope that something may be done to restore the old pre-eminence of this country in these respects? It seems to me that your Institution will do good service if it is able to procure for some of the young men of this neighbourhood a career, either in the higher grades amongst our Engineers and Mechanicians, or in the subordinate ranks of the Craftsmen and Artificers. I will, with your permission, give you one small piece of advice. You

Deputations at Madras.

cannot attach too much importance to teaching your pupils the use of the pencil. I will venture to say that no one, whatever his profession is, is completely educated unless he knows something about drawing, but for those who intend to adopt a scientific, or technical, profession, whether he be the humblest carver of wood, or a Civil Engineer competent to bridge one of your mighty rivers, ability to use the pencil is indispensable.

I must not forget to add that it is extremely satisfactory to me to find the Mahomedan community addressing itself so vigorously to this important work, and I am also glad to hear that you are receiving liberal assistance and encouragement from a number of persons belonging to religious denominations other than your own.

It remains for me to thank you for your welcome, and to wish your schools all possible success. (*Applause.*)

DEPUTATIONS AT MADRAS.

[On Saturday, the 26th November at mid-day, the Viceroy, accompanied by Lord Wenlock, received and replied, collectively, to the deputations indicated in His Excellency's reply below. 26th Nov. 1892.]

The various deputations having read their addresses, the Viceroy spoke as follows :—]

Gentlemen representing the—

Madras Chamber of Commerce,
Madras Harbour Trust,
Madras Trades Association,
Native Mercantile Community
of Madras,
Mahajana Sabha,
Inhabitants of Ongole and
Kundukur Taluq, Nellore,

Inhabitants of Guntur town and
Taluq,
Inhabitants of Ramapatam
Nellore,
People of Nellore,
Inhabitants of Masulipatam,
Inhabitants of Bapatla Taluq.

I have to thank you for the kindness with which you have welcomed me to this Presidency, and for your loyal

Deputations at Madras.

addresses. As all of these deal mainly with the question of Railway construction, and more especially with the position and prospects of the East Coast Line, it will be for our mutual convenience that I should make a single statement in reply.

I am not surprised that you should desire to lay before me your views with regard to this most important matter. It is one which naturally fills a prominent place in the eyes of the mercantile community both in Madras and in other commercial centres. Both your present Governor, and his predecessor, Lord Connemara, have constantly represented to me the keen interest taken in it by the people of this Presidency, and have urged its claims with much earnestness and force upon the Government of India.

Now, let me say at once that I am not, for a moment, going to differ from you as to the value of the project in which you are so much interested. I readily admit that the Indian Railway system will be incomplete until the East Coast Railway has been constructed from end to end, and the capital of this Presidency placed in direct Railway communication with Calcutta.

I have, moreover, no doubt that the writers of these addresses are correct in believing that the completion of the line would prevent trade from being diverted from this Presidency to other centres of industry, that it would serve a useful purpose for famine protection in the neighbourhood of Nellore, and elsewhere, and that it would be advantageous in that it would place the Singareni coal fields in direct communication with this city. I am not here to dispute any of these contentions, and I wish to emphasise the point, because, in more than one of your addresses, complaint is made of the amount of the State expenditure upon Railways in this Presidency, and of the preference which is alleged to have been shown for schemes commercially less promising in other parts of the country.

Gentlemen, whether you are satisfied or not with the

Deputations at Madras.

progress which has already been achieved, I cannot think we are open to the charge of having ignored the East Coast Line, or of having treated it with less liberality than rival projects elsewhere. Indeed, if our feelings towards the East Coast Line are to be gauged by the extent of the grants made towards it since its commencement, we shall certainly not be suspected of indifference to its success. The facts are as follows. I find that in the year 1891-92, out of a total grant for the construction of Railways of 395 lakhs, 125 lakhs were spent upon the East Coast Line; while, in the following year, out of a total grant of 445 lakhs, 123 lakhs were spent upon it. If you consider that, out of the balance left for the rest of India, 50 lakhs were required for Burmah, besides a certain sum for strategic lines already in progress, you will see that this Presidency has certainly of late had its full share of our available resources. You will, I hope, to this extent at all events, give us credit for having paid attention to your requirements.

I am, however, well aware that there has been some disappointment, because we have not gone faster, or because, being unable to go faster ourselves, we have not stepped aside, and allowed this great work to be undertaken by others, and I should like to say a few words as to both these alternatives.

You are, I have no doubt, aware that our Public Works expenditure, not charged to revenue, is limited, by a well established rule, to a fixed amount which we are not allowed to exceed. It has always seemed to me that, although the precise extent of the limit thus imposed was a fair subject for discussion, it was right and reasonable that some limit of the kind should be laid down in order to prevent the spasmodic and irregular taking up of enterprises involving a heavy drain upon the public exchequer. A steady annual rate of progress in Railway construction, a rate sufficient, but not more than sufficient, to keep the whole of our engineering establishments fully employed, is obviously

Deputations at Madras.

preferable to progress by fits and starts under conditions which in one year leave a portion of our establishments working at half speed, and overtax their resources the next.

This limitation virtually imposes a restriction on the amount of our borrowing, and confines our total expenditure upon Public Works from all sources to an amount ranging between 400 and 500 lakhs of rupees per annum. It is scarcely necessary for me to remind you that, owing to circumstances with which we are all of us familiar, our expenditure, during the next year or two, will have to be watched with more than usual strictness, and that there is consequently no prospect, as far as the Government of India is concerned, that the rate of expenditure upon this line, or any others, will be largely increased in the near future.

Under these circumstances it is perhaps not unnatural that you should say to us—why do you not withdraw and allow private enterprise to undertake and to carry through, as rapidly as possible, a work which you yourselves admit is one of great public importance, but with which you are not able to proceed as rapidly as you would like?

Now, gentlemen, I am quite ready to admit that, if private enterprise is in a position to come forward and undertake the East Coast Railway, there would be strong *prima facie* grounds for asking us to hand over the project to a Company. I am bound, however, to say that, so far as I am aware of the proposals which have been made, none of them have contemplated the construction of the East Coast Railway by the agency of what could be fairly and properly described as genuine private enterprise, and I am sorry to add that, as far as my experience carries me, true and unassisted private enterprise, in relation to Railway construction in India, is almost non-existent. This is perhaps not altogether to be wondered at. There are two explanations, either of which would, I believe, be sufficient to

Deputations at Madras.

account for the fact. We have, in the first place, the uncertainty as to the rate of exchange which has naturally deterred European capital from seeking investment here; and in the next place, we have the practice, hitherto resorted to by the Government of India, of guaranteeing liberal rates of interest to Companies in order to induce them to take up and construct Railway projects. It has always seemed to me perfectly natural that, while there was a chance of obtaining such a guarantee from the Government of India, or from the Secretary of State, promoters should be unwilling to run the risks attendant upon an unguaranteed expenditure of private capital. This, at any rate, is certain, that, with one or two rare and insignificant exceptions, no line of Railway has of late been constructed in India by private agency, except upon conditions which virtually transferred the risk of the undertaking from the shoulders of the promoters to those of the Government.

I understand that when it is suggested that the Government of India should hand over the East Coast Railway to a Private Company, you contemplate that the Company should be assisted by such a guarantee as I have described, and this is, unless I am mistaken, the alternative suggested in the address of the Chamber of Commerce, in which it is said that the Chamber does not see that "the Government of India would run any risk in guaranteeing 3½ per cent. at which rate it is assured that abundant rupee money would be forthcoming.

Now, gentlemen, I need not tell you that any suggestion which you may make is entitled to my most careful consideration, and will certainly receive that of the Honourable Member who has just taken charge of the Public Works Department.

I should, however, be wanting in candour were I not to tell you that, if we cannot afford to add from public funds to the expenditure which we are undertaking on account of

Deputations at Madras.

this line, we should, in my opinion, not be justified in adopting the more expensive course of guaranteeing to a Company anything like the full rate of interest at which its capital will be raised. Guaranteeing interest is, after all, a kind of vicarious borrowing by the Government of India, with this difference, that the conditions are much more unfavourable to us than those upon which we are able to borrow for ourselves; first, because we are able to raise money for ourselves at a lower rate than any Company can raise it, and, secondly, because, when we borrow ourselves, our liability is limited to the interest, whilst we get all profits above the percentage rate at which the capital was raised, whereas, if we give the line to a guaranteed company, we not only become responsible for the guaranteed interest, but may eventually be compelled to purchase the undertaking upon terms which, if former precedents are to count for anything, are likely to be extremely onerous for the purchaser.

There are, however, several other aspects of the case which would have to be considered. Are we to give the Company its guarantee in sterling, or in silver? If you should say in sterling, I should be constrained to reply that, so long as we remain in our present uncertainty with regard to exchange, it would be an act of the utmost imprudence to add to our sterling liabilities. We have already to provide about 17 million pounds annually to cover our sterling liabilities, and I do not believe that any prudent man of business would counsel us, under present circumstances, to add to them one shilling more than we can help.

Then there is the question of a silver guarantee, which the Chamber of Commerce would, I gather, prefer. This proposal is perhaps less easy to dispose of in a few words. It seems to me, however, that the considerations which justify us in imposing a limit upon our own borrowing powers, justify us in objecting to an indefinite extension of guarantees to Company Lines. When the Government of India guarantees interest on the capital of a Railway

Deputations at Madras.

Company, it is, as I said just now, really borrowing by deputy. It follows that if our borrowing powers are properly restricted, the wholesale guaranteeing of Companies will serve only to defeat the restriction.

There is another point which I should like you to consider. Let us assume that this project is handed over to a Company with a capital of 1,000 lakhs—I have seen that figure mentioned, and I am not responsible for it. A 3½ per cent. guarantee upon that sum would mean an annual charge of 35 lakhs. Now, the East Coast Railway, however rapidly it might be pushed towards completion, would be very unlikely to make a profit during construction, or during the first years of its existence as an open line. We should, however, during all that time be liable for the full amount of the guarantee, and whether it were 35 lakhs or a smaller sum, I certainly do not think that we should be justified at the present moment in adding the amount light-heartedly to our Imperial liabilities.

I have only one word more to say upon this subject. While I am entirely with you in believing that this great Railway project will eventually have to be completed from end to end, I cannot admit that that portion of it which has already been sanctioned—I mean the section between Bezwada and Cuttack—can in itself be properly described as a useless or abortive project. I mention this because the Bezwada-Cuttack line has not infrequently been described in some such language. The writers of the Nellore address, for example, point out “that an East Coast Railway, without taking in the greatest part of the East Coast, is an anomaly.” Now, the Bezwada-Cuttack section was undertaken for a specific purpose, namely, that of connecting by rail the grain-producing deltas of the Kistna and Godavery with Ganjam and Orissa. It would be a valuable line even if it were never to be extended towards the North and South. As for the other two sections, there is, as we all know, already Railway communication between

Deputations at Madras.

Bezwada and Madras, although the route is no doubt a circuitous one, and interrupted by breaks of gauge.

As for the Northern extension between Cuttack and Calcutta, there is, as you are aware, a considerable difference of opinion as to the route which it should take, and the interests of other Companies have to be considered before that point can be finally decided.

As you have invited an expression of my opinion upon these points, I have given it to you with the utmost frankness. I trust that, because I have done so, and because I have pointed out to you the difficulties which seemed to me to lie in your path, you will not conclude that I should view with indifference an indefinite delay in the completion of this great work. Nothing, on the contrary, would give me more pleasure than to see it pushed on with greater rapidity, and if, after considering what I have said, you are able to satisfy me that matters can be advanced by the employment of the agency of a Company, or by any other means, it will be most agreeable to me to find myself a convert to your views, and to see the Government of India relieved of a vast undertaking which must otherwise, for some time to come, absorb a great part of the limited funds at our disposal for purposes of Railway construction.

EURASIAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN ASSOCIATION,
MADRAS.

[A deputation of the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association presented the Viceroy with an address of welcome at Government House, Madras, on Saturday, the 26th November. His Excellency, in replying, spoke as follows:—]

Gentlemen,—It gives me much pleasure to receive your loyal address, and I have to thank you for your graceful reference to the occasion on which, at the commencement of my term of office as Viceroy, your Association approached me with an expression of its good-will.

I learn, with interest, that, since you addressed me in 1889, the constitution of your Association has been modified, with the object of including European British subjects who have no domicile in this country, as well as Eurasians and domiciled Anglo-Indians.

Within these classes are to be found a large proportion of persons standing sorely in need of support and assistance. An Association such as yours is well calculated to provide both—to make known the requirements of such persons, and to organise measures for their relief. It would serve a useful purpose if it could succeed in inculcating provident habits among the classes in which you are specially interested, notably by discouraging early and premature marriages, which are notoriously the cause of much suffering to those who contract them, and which, it is to be feared, are often the means of bringing into existence children, for whom, in the face of the fierce competition prevailing in this country, it is difficult, if not impossible, to provide a suitable livelihood.

You have reminded me of my reference to the possibility of admitting Eurasians to the Military service of the Crown. I understand that the Government of this Presidency is likely to take up the question, and it will, under the circumstances, probably be desirable that I should abstain from expressing any opinion of my own with regard

Address from the Mahomedan Community, Madras.

to it until definite proposals have been submitted to the Government of India. I will only say that, while I should welcome an opportunity of opening the Military profession to persons of mixed race, we are obliged, in the present circumstances of the Indian Empire, to consider any such proposals in reference, not only to their social and political aspects, but with regard to their cost, and to their results in adding to the Military strength of the Empire.

It remains for me to assure you of my sympathy with the objects of your Association, and of my desire to consider, in the most respectful spirit, any recommendations which you may think proper to make.

ADDRESS FROM THE MAHOMEDAN COMMUNITY,
MADRAS.

26th Nov. 1892.

[A deputation representing the Mahomedan community of Madras waited on the Viceroy at Government House, Madras, on Saturday, the 26th November, and presented him with an address of welcome, to which His Excellency replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—It gives me much pleasure to receive this address from the Mahomedan community of Madras, and to notice the courteous terms in which you have referred to my visit to this Presidency.

I accept, without reservation, your emphatic statement that you and your co-religionists are second to none in your attachment and loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, and as Her Majesty's Representative in this country, I can assure you that the Government of India values your good-will, and desires to retain your confidence.

You have been good enough to express the satisfaction with which you regarded the appointment of a distinguished Mahomedan Barrister to a seat in the Calcutta High Court.

Address from the Landholders' Association of Madras.

I can well understand that you should have desired to see a representative of your own creed given a place upon the Bench, and I considered myself fortunate in being able to recommend to Her Majesty for elevation to it a Mahomedan Barrister, whose professional position and attainments qualified him for promotion, and who has, I am glad to say, given sufficient proof that he was deserving of it.

I feel sure that those who profess your faith may, at all times, depend upon receiving their fair share of official patronage, upon the condition that you are able to produce candidates of unquestionable fitness; and I rejoice to know that, keeping this object in view, the Mahomedan community is bestowing increased attention upon the education given to those who look to enter the public service.

Allow me, in conclusion, to thank you for your good wishes for Lady Lansdowne and myself, and to assure you of the pleasure which it has given me to meet you.

**ADDRESS FROM THE LANDHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION
OF MADRAS.**

[On Saturday, the 26th November 1892, a deputation, representing the Rajahs, Zemindars, and Landholders of the Landholders' Association of Madras, waited on the Viceroy at Government House, Madras, and presented him with an address of welcome, to which His Excellency replied as follows :—] 26th Nov. 1892.

Gentlemen,—I have much pleasure in accepting the loyal address with which you have been good enough to present me on behalf of the Rajahs, Zemindars and Landholders, members of the Landholders' Association of Madras.

I can assure you that the Government of India greatly values the good-will and attachment of so important and distinguished a body. It is most satisfactory to me to find that you are sensible of the advantages conferred upon you

Address from the Landholders' Association of Madras.

by British rule, which, as you have truly said, has been the means of obtaining for persons owning property in this country a degree of security which they would probably not have enjoyed under any other circumstances.

I shall not fail to bear in mind what you have said with regard to the subject dealt with in the fourth paragraph of your address. It is one of very great difficulty, and you will not expect me to discuss it with you upon the present occasion.

It has been very fully dealt with in the memorial which you have addressed to the Local Government, and His Excellency the Governor will, no doubt, in due time, lay before us an expression of his views with regard to it.

I may, perhaps, add that similar questions affecting the laws by which the inheritance of landed property is governed have been raised in other parts of India, and have engaged the attention of the Supreme Government.

I beg once more to thank you for the welcome with which you have received Lady Lansdowne and myself, and to express the pleasure which it has given me to meet you here this afternoon.

PACHAIYAPPA COLLEGE, MADRAS.

[The annual distribution of prizes to the students of the Pachaiyappa College and the celebration of the Pachaiyappa Golden Jubilee took place at Madras on Saturday afternoon, the 26th November, the Viceroy presiding. His Excellency was accompanied by Lord Wenlock, and the audience was a large and representative one. After the distribution of the prizes and the reading of the College report, His Excellency the Viceroy (who was received with cheers) spoke as follows :—] 26th Nov. 1892

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,—You are celebrating to-day the fiftieth anniversary of the Pachaiyappa foundation. Your thoughts turn, partly to the great work of education and charity which is now in progress in the institutions connected with his name, and partly to the memory of the man, to whose generous bequest their existence is due. We, in England, make a point of observing such anniversaries as these, and of honouring the names of the benefactors whose liberality provided for the wants of those who were to come after them. I am glad that you follow the same practice here, and, amongst your Hindu worthies, there are probably few who better deserve to be remembered and honoured than the founder of this institution. (*Applause.*)

Of Pachaiyappa himself much has been written, and those whom I have the honour of addressing are probably much more familiar with his history than I am. I gather that he was what we should call "a self-made man," one, that is, who owed his advancement in life, and the accumulation of his fortune, to his own character and energy, rather than to adventitious aids. It is however, I think, clear that he made his way in the world, not only by his shrewdness and capacity for business, but by the confidence with which he succeeded in inspiring all those with whom he was brought into contact. He appears to have been largely employed as a broker, or agent, by English

Pachaiyappa College, Madras.

Merchants, who, being unfamiliar with the language or custom of the country, required the services of a skilled and, above all, a thoroughly trustworthy intermediary. His conduct and character attracted the attention of the East India Company, and secured for him employment as a contractor and agent in large transactions between the Company and the officials of the Nawab of the Carnatic. In those days, as we all know, the line which separated commercial from political business was not as clearly defined as it is now, and many of the duties which devolved upon Pachaiyappa were probably of a kind which would, at the present time, be entrusted to officials of the State.

It is remarkable that, during his lifetime, and throughout his busy career, Pachaiyappa's charity was constantly exercised upon the most generous scale. He is described, in an interesting memoir which I have had the pleasure of reading, as having had the reputation of "a simple, kind-hearted, God-fearing man, with wide sympathies and large affections, ever inclined to pity the poor, and to give a portion of his time, money, and influence to works of charity and mercy for their relief and lasting welfare." (*Applause.*)

It is frequently the case that rich persons are well content that their wealth shall be devoted to charitable purposes after their death, and when they are no longer able to control and enjoy it. The truer charity is that of the rich man who, during his lifetime, sets apart a portion of his means for the support of those whom Providence has blessed less liberally than himself. I am glad to think that there are, in this part of India, many wealthy persons whose charity, like that of Pachaiyappa, is not only of the posthumous kind. (*Applause.*) You all know the interesting story of his will, of the disputes which arose with regard to it, and of the ultimate restitution of his property to charitable purposes.

I am not surprised that the Hindu community should be

Pachaiyappa College, Madras.

proud of him, and should revere his memory. You have, moreover, a right to be grateful to him, not only on account of what he did himself, but because of the fruitful results produced by his example. There are, at this moment, I understand, many schools and useful institutions which are indeed under the management of the Trustees of Pachaiyappa's charities, but which owe their endowment to other wealthy and charitable persons, who have sought to follow in Pachaiyappa's footsteps. (*Applause.*) The particular institution whose golden jubilee we have met to celebrate is the Pachaiyappa School, which, beginning as a comparatively insignificant elementary School, has, during the past fifty years, become an Arts College of assured position, and the foremost Hindu College of the first grade in this Presidency. I will not attempt to travel over the same ground as the President of the Board of Trustees in the interesting statement which he has just read. I will, however, venture to congratulate the Trustees of the Charity upon the position which the School and College have won for themselves. (*Applause.*) I learn, with particular satisfaction, that, for the second year in succession, a student of the College has stood first in the Presidency at the First Arts Examination. (*Applause.*) I trust that, for many years to come, the College will continue to do work worthy of its distinguished founder, and that it will, to use the words of the President, not only form a national seat of culture for the dissemination of what is best and noblest in the literature, science, and philosophy of the West, but a centre of true patriotic feeling—a centre from which, year after year, a number of the most intelligent of our Hindu youths will, I hope, issue forth into the world, not merely crammed with facts and theories, but with heart and head as they should be, fit to take their places, like Pachaiyappa, as self-reliant, simple, honourable, and upright members of society in whatever station their lot may be cast. (*Applause.*)

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT THE CALCUTTA FREE SCHOOL.

1st Dec. 1892.

[The annual distribution of prizes to the pupils of the Calcutta Free School took place on Wednesday afternoon, the 21st December 1892. The Viceroy presided, and the Marchioness of Landsdowne gave away the prizes. The Bishop of Calcutta and a large number of ladies and gentlemen were present. After the reading of the annual report by the Reverend Graham Sandberg, and the distribution of the prizes by Her Excellency, Lord Lansdowne spoke as follows:—]

My Lord Bishop, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I wish, in the first place, to thank the Governors for having been good enough to allow me to preside on this interesting occasion. I may say that I was somewhat surprised—I was going to say somewhat shocked—by the statement which was made to us just now to the effect that 20 years have passed since the Viceroy of India has taken a part in the proceedings of your Founder's Day. I assure you I am very glad indeed to have broken the spell; and I am also very glad to follow in the footsteps of one so worthy to be followed as Lord Mayo. (*Applause.*) I am afraid it is a little late in the day for me to profess my readiness to mend my ways in the matter of attendance here, but I venture to predict that another 20 years will not have passed before another Viceroy visits you. (*Applause.*)

These Schools certainly deserve our sympathy, and are entitled to our support. For upwards of a century the Schools have educated, and not only educated in the more restricted sense of the word, but boarded and clothed, friendless and destitute children of European descent from all parts of India. Of late years the number has reached over 400 annually. I am afraid that we cannot disguise from ourselves the truth of the statement which has just been made to us to the effect that the number of such children is tending to increase as time goes on. If any proof were wanting of the truth of this statement, it is supplied by the fact that last summer, room could be

Distribution of Prizes at the Calcutta Free School.

found for only one out of every five candidates for admission. Under these circumstances, the Managers of the Schools have to choose between closing their doors to children who are in every way entitled to admittance, or facing the grave problems which will be presented to them by proposals to extend the School premises, and to increase the strength of its staff. That is one very serious question which the friends of the Free Schools will be called upon to consider.

Mr. Sandberg has touched upon another not less serious question. How are you to provide for the pupils who go out into the world from these Schools every year? In this respect your responsibilities are very much more embarrassing than those of an ordinary school. In the case of an ordinary school, the responsibilities of the managers cease when the school course has been completed and the pupil leaves. It is the business of his family, or his friends, to provide him with a career; but in the case of these Schools we are reminded of the fact—and a very sad and touching fact it is—that many of the pupils have, at the expiration of their school-time, no homes to go to, and consequently no family and no friends to provide for a career for them. It is under these melancholy circumstances that the authorities of the Free Schools have assumed, as far as was possible for them, the responsibility of providing, what Mr. Sandberg has called, “at least the beginnings of a career.” The difficulty of the attempt is obvious. There never was a time when the competition for employment was keener than it is at present, or when the openings were, relatively to the numbers to be provided for, so few. It seems to me, under these circumstances, of the utmost importance that the authorities of the School should fix their attention upon this point, and should, as far as possible, endeavour to give the pupils that kind of education which is most likely to secure them remunerative employment. The proposal to lend a more practical turn

Distribution of Prizes at the Calcutta Free School.

to the studies of the pupils, and to give them, at all events, partial preparation for some trade, or mechanical profession, is deserving of the most respectful examination. The suggestion that, towards the close of the School course, facilities might be obtained for half-time attendance at workshops, factories, printing presses, and other centres of technical industry, may possibly afford a solution of the difficulty. Even this change however would, I take it, require some modification of the School course itself, and could probably not be carried out, except by adding to the training staff and providing special appliances.

All these things involve additional expenditure, and, as we all of us know, there never was a moment when the difficulty of providing for additional expenditure was greater. These schools have, however, been upon the whole liberally supported, and I feel no doubt that, if a well-matured scheme for carrying out proposals of the kind which Mr. Sandberg has indicated were laid before the friends of the Schools, it would be sure of support. If he decides to move in the matter, I hope he will let me know. (*Applause.*)

I should like to express the satisfaction with which I have heard the references which have been made to the reports of the Government Inspector. I think they should convince those who are hesitating whether they should come to the assistance of these Schools or not, that any assistance which they may be able to give will be well bestowed.

Before I sit down I wish to say that I am glad to hear of the honourable position which the Cadet Company of the Free School has won for itself. I have, several times, seen the Company on parade, and have been pleased with the soldier-like appearance of the lads. It is very creditable to the Company that, in the competition for Sir Charles Elliott's prize, it should have tied for the second place (*applause*); and, as I am on the subject of volunteering,

Distribution of Prizes at the Calcutta Free School.

I must not forget to mention the brilliant success which has recently been obtained by an ex-cadet, Volunteer DeCruz, at the Meerut Central Meeting. Mr. DeCruz, in one important match, made the only "highest possible," obtaining 35 points at 600 yards. (*Applause.*) His name appears honourably in several other competitions, and I hope that the members of the Cadet Company will be encouraged by the brilliant example which he has set. I believe I am right in saying that Volunteer DeCruz is the son of the present Head Master of the School. And that leads me to say a word with regard to the Head Master, Mr. DeCruz, and to the Head Mistress, Mrs. Nazir, whom I see near me. All those who have had anything to do with schools know how much depends upon the Master or Mistress, as the case may be, and I may say that I thought that the cheerful intelligent appearance of the pupils, both boys and girls, was most creditable to the School and to the staff of Masters and Mistresses who are immediately responsible for the care and education of the children. (*Applause.*) And may I be allowed to express one word of special commendation of what I may term, for the sake of convenience, the little Cadet Corps which sits over there on the girls' side, and which gave us that admirable performance with the Japanese fans just now (*applause*)—a performance which delighted us all very much. I should like to say to the little performers that, if they will consider me for the moment as being "the terrible Mikado that sits upon the throne," referred to in their song, I will promise that, while I occupy that position, nobody shall be allowed to cut their heads off, or interfere in any way with their happiness. (*Laughter and cheers.*)

I have now only to congratulate the prize-winners upon their success, and to express my earnest hope that this School, which has done so much excellent work in past years, will continue to deserve and to obtain the liberal support of its patrons. (*Applause.*)

THE PETIT BARONETCY BILL.

9th Jany. 1893. [In the Legislative Council held on Thursday, the 19th January 1893, a Bill for settling the Endowment of the Baronetcy conferred upon Sir Dinshaw Monockjee Petit "of Petit Hall" in the Island of Bombay, was taken into consideration. A discussion as to the propriety of retaining clauses 11 and 12 of the Bill, which provided for the permanent endowment of securities and immoveable property arose, in which Dr. Rash Behary Ghose, Sir Griffith Evans and Sir A. Miller took part. His Excellency closed the discussion with the following remarks:—]

I think it is quite clear that the suggestion made by the Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans for an adjournment is a perfectly reasonable one. The point which has been discussed is probably presented for the first time to several Members of Council, and it certainly is by no means an unimportant one. The Bill, as has been observed, is a personal Bill, but there is no doubt that it affects very important questions of principle. It is a matter of notoriety that the Government of India has been approached with suggestions for similar legislation of a personal character, and I believe it is no secret that the larger question, whether it may not be desirable to provide by legislation of general application for the settlement of different forms of property, has also been urged upon us.

Under these circumstances, I think it would be very regrettable that, in a Bill of this kind, we should take any steps which might hereafter commit us upon so important a matter.

I should myself be inclined to say that, of the two clauses—clauses 11 and 12—to which special attention has been drawn, clause 12 is open to much more serious objection than clause 11. The power to settle land has always been regarded with much greater jealousy than the power to settle securities, and my first impression is

Convocation of the Calcutta University.

that the power to settle securities, subject to the consent of the Local Government, is not, on the face of it, an unreasonable power to ask for. The power, however, to settle land has always been regarded, and rightly regarded, with much greater jealousy, and the proposal to confer it in the present case raises much more serious difficulties.

Under these circumstances, I think the discussion had better stand over for the present, and we shall consider whether it will be necessary, or desirable, to approach the Government of Bombay again, before proceeding further.

[The further consideration of the amendment was postponed.]

CONVOCAION OF THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

[The Annual Convocation of the Calcutta University for conferring 28th Jany. 1893. Degrees was held in the Senate Hall of the University on Saturday, 28th January 1893. The Viceroy, as Chancellor of the University, presided. Mr. Justice Pigot took his seat as Vice-Chancellor. After the Degrees had been conferred, His Excellency, who was received with applause, rose and addressed the Convocation as follows :—]

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Ladies and Gentlemen,—This is the fifth occasion upon which I have had the pleasure of meeting the members of the University in Convocation, and I hope you will regard it as some evidence of the interest which I take in your affairs that I should never have allowed any other engagement to stand in the way of that which I am now fulfilling. (*Applause.*)

I will, in accordance with my custom, refer very briefly to one or two matters in which, as your Chancellor, I have been specially concerned during the last 12 months.

I think you will, in the first place, expect me to make some acknowledgment of the services which have been rendered to this University by Mr. Justice Gooroo Dass Banerjea, who has lately resigned the Vice-Chancellorship (*Applause*). Himself a member of the University, he has

Convocation of the Calcutta University.

shown himself thoroughly able to understand its wants. During his three years' tenure, he has discharged, with much tact and ability, the difficult duties of his office, and has succeeded in winning for himself the respect of all those with whom he has been brought into contact. (*Applause.*)

The University is fortunate in obtaining, as Mr. Justice Banerjea's successor, the learned gentleman who now occupies the Vice-Chancellor's chair. (*Applause.*) There is a Latin saying which we Englishmen are fond of quoting—*uno avulso, non deficit alter*, which I might translate freely by saying that the High Court has given us another Vice-Chancellor in all respects likely to fulfil worthily the duties of his high office. (*Applause.*) I believe I am right in saying that, if Mr. Justice Pigot's appointment has been criticised, it has been solely on the ground that he, like both his predecessors, has been a member of the High Court, and that it was time we looked elsewhere. Well, Gentlemen, I should be sorry to admit that we could not find a Vice-Chancellor outside the High Court, but I venture to think that it is extremely fortunate that we are able to look to that eminent body as a frequent source of supply. The Judges of the High Court occupy a position of great dignity and independence. They bring with them a knowledge of the distinguished profession which a large number of students of this University are always likely to follow, and I think we may add to these qualifications another, namely, that at a time when the officials of the Executive Government are absent from Calcutta, and are commonly, but most erroneously, believed to be leading a life of careless ease at remote hill stations, the High Court Judges are to be found at their posts within this city, and are consequently able to attend continuously to the business of the University. I am sure we are, all of us, grateful to Mr. Justice Pigot for having accepted an office which, as we well know, is far from being a sinecure. (*Applause.*)

Convocation of the Calcutta University.

I have, on these occasions, more than once said a few words to you with regard to the election of Fellows of the University. It has, as you are aware, been my object gradually to reduce the number of the Senate, and to avoid conferring Fellowships upon gentlemen unconnected with this province, or otherwise unlikely to take a useful part in the affairs of the University. In pursuance of this object, we have, during the past four years, only filled up a portion of the vacancies which arose. At the end of last year there were 14 vacancies, and of these, only 9 have been filled up.

Then you will remember that, ever since 1889, I have asked the Graduates of the University to assist me in selecting some of the new Fellows. During the last three years two Fellows per annum have been appointed on the recommendation of the Graduates. On the present occasion the number has been increased to three, and this has provided an opportunity for allowing the Graduates to elect, for the first time, a member of the Medical Faculty. I am glad to say that I have been assured by the Vice-Chancellor that the three gentlemen who have been elected are likely to fulfil, in respect of their character and qualifications, the expectations with which I resorted to this mode of selection for filling up a portion of the vacancies in the Senate.

This leads me to mention that, during the past year, I have had a good deal of correspondence with gentlemen interested in this matter, both upon the subject of the qualifications of candidates for election, and also as to the qualifications of those members of the University by whom the Fellows are elected under this new arrangement. It was represented to me, and I think with good reason, that, under the rules in force, some gentlemen, in all respects deserving of the honour of a Fellowship, were not eligible for it, and also that the rule which restricted the franchise to M. A.s, or the holders of

Convocation of the Calcutta University.

equivalent or higher degrees, operated hardly with regard to some of the senior B. A.s who had graduated before 1867. We have introduced certain changes in order to extend the qualification in each case. Under the present rules, candidates for election must be (1) in the Faculty of Arts, M. A.s or B. A.s who graduated before 1867; (2) in the Faculty of Law, holders of the D. L. degree; (3) in the Faculty of Medicine, Doctors or M. B.s of ten years' standing; and (4) in the Faculty of Engineering, Masters or B. C. E.s of ten years' standing. The electors, on the other hand, must be either M. A.s or holders of equivalent or higher degrees, or B. A.s who graduated before 1867. I have dwelt upon this subject, because it is, I think, a good illustration of the necessity of proceeding experimentally when dealing with these somewhat intricate questions.

There is one other observation which I should like to make with regard to the Senate of the University. It seems to me of special importance that we should have a strong and thoroughly representative Senate, because it is by no means impossible that the Senate will, before long, have a novel and most important and responsible function entrusted to it. It is, I think, generally known that we are now awaiting the Secretary of State's official sanction to the introduction of new regulations, under which both the procedure and constitution of the Legislative Councils will be materially altered. This is not the occasion for a disquisition upon this momentous subject. You all know that our object is to render these Legislative bodies more representative than they have yet been, and to give a wider scope to their utility by increasing their opportunities for taking part in public business. We have proposed—and I shall be disappointed if our proposal is not accepted—that the Senate of this University should be allowed to select one of the Additional Members of the Bengal Legislative Council (*Applause.*)

Convocation of the Calcutta University.

I have sometimes heard it said by strict educationalists that it was desirable that educational institutions should have as little to do as possible with politics, and that it was consequently a grave mistake to allow Indian Universities to enter the political arena. That is no doubt, on the face of it, a plausible view, but it is one which a closer examination of the subject has led me not to accept. In the first place, it seems to me most important that what I may speak of as the literary class of the Indian community should not be unrepresented upon the reconstituted Councils, and I know of no quarter to which we can have recourse for this purpose with more likelihood of success than the Universities. I feel sure that they will exercise their choice with circumspection, and will give us members likely to enhance the reputation alike of the Councils and of the Universities. (*Applause.*) As for the objection to encouraging members of the University to meddle in political questions, I have a shrewd idea that nothing which we can do, or leave undone, will prevent them from interesting themselves in such questions, and that every one will gain if we give them a regular and legitimate opportunity of making themselves felt as political factors. (*Applause.*)

There is one other matter about which I should like to say a few words. Some of you may recollect that when I addressed you here last year, I spoke with some anxiety of the position in which a great many of the students of the University find themselves when they come up to Calcutta to prosecute their studies. I dwelt upon the difficulties encountered by a merely examining University in dealing with a question of this sort, and I expressed a hope that some efforts might be made to provide for the moral supervision of the students, for the improvement of their surroundings, and for the promotion of healthy physical exercises and recreation. I expressed my approval of an Association which some friends of the University had

Convocation of the Calcutta University.

lately created for the promotion of the higher training of young men. The subject is full of difficulty, and it was not to be expected that much would be achieved by this Society, or by any other within a short time. I am glad, however, to know that the matter is still receiving attention. It has been dealt with in a most able and suggestive manner in a recently published Resolution of the Bengal Government, which should be read with care by all who have not yet seen it. I rejoice to find that Sir Charles Elliott, than whom the students of this University have no warmer or more sympathetic friend, has given the weight of his high authority in favour of the doctrine that the relations of the Principals, Professors, and Teachers in Government Colleges and Schools to their students ought not to begin and end in the lecture room and that he has spoken in terms of well-merited commendation of those members of the educational staff who have "devoted themselves to joining their boys both in athletic games and in intellectual pursuits which lie outside the ordinary curriculum of the University." I feel no doubt whatever that His Honor is right when he says that "the kindly leading and influence thus exercised does more to train up the students to be gentlemen and scholars, useful citizens, and loyal subjects of the Queen, than a wilderness of moral text-books could do." (*Applause.*)

I hope that it may not be found impossible, either by private agency, or by the University itself, to exercise some supervision over the quarters in which the students are accommodated within this great city. We all know that, in the animal kingdom, fishes, birds, and insects are found frequently assimilating their form and colour to the natural objects by which they are surrounded. I believe it would be thoroughly in accord with scientific precedents that a lad who finds himself domiciled in a dirty, or disreputable, portion of the town, should run an extremely good chance of becoming himself unclean and disreput-

Convocation of the Calcutta University.

able. It does not seem to me to be at all beyond the limits of possibility that, if we cannot go the length of providing proper hostels, or accommodation, for the students, we should at least insist upon the keepers of the lodging houses in which the students live taking out a license which might be withdrawn from them if their premises were kept in a disorderly or objectionable manner. (*Applause.*)

There is one other subject as to which I should like to say a word before I resume my place. The Government of India have recently decided to offer facilities to the London University for holding the Intermediate Examination in Arts and the B. A. Examination in Calcutta. This decision was not arrived at without previous consultation with the Syndicate and Senate of the Calcutta University, and I am glad to know that the University authorities have given their unreserved adhesion to the proposal. It was originally made, mainly for the convenience of European students receiving their education in this country, but it is obvious that the indirect effect of these examinations upon those of the Calcutta University is likely to be considerable. The standard insisted upon by the London University is a high one, and the conditions of the examinations are strictly enforced. I do not see why this University should have anything to fear from a healthy rivalry of this kind, and, on the other hand, the stimulus which that rivalry will afford is likely to have an excellent effect upon the schools and colleges affiliated to the University.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, as I said at the outset of these remarks, this is the fifth occasion on which I have had the pleasure of meeting the members of the University in Convocation, and it is not likely that, in the ordinary course of events, I shall again stand face to face with you in this Hall. Let me, therefore, take this opportunity, which may possibly be the last which I shall have, of

The Exchange Question.

expressing the satisfaction which it has been to me to be connected with your University as its Chancellor, and the interest which I have felt in the slight part which I have been able to play in the direction of its affairs. (*Loud and continued applause.*)

[The Vice-Chancellor, at the request of the Chancellor, then addressed the Convocation and the proceedings closed.]

THE EXCHANGE QUESTION.
DEPUTATION FROM THE SERVICES.

31st January
1893.

[A numerous and influential deputation representing all branches of the various Services of the Government of India, waited upon the Viceroy on Tuesday, the 31st January, with a view to representing the distress occasioned to them in consequence of the fall in exchange. Mr. Justice Norris presented the deputation to the Viceroy, making some observations as he did so; and Mr. David R. Lyall read a general statement on behalf of the Services. Statements were also read by Mr. Horace Bell on behalf of the Public Works, Telegraph, and other Departments, and by the Venerable Archdeacon McCarthy on behalf of the clergy. The Viceroy replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—You represented to me a few days ago that it would be agreeable to you to meet me, and to lay before me a statement of the manner in which the European officers serving the Government of India in the Departments with which you are connected had been affected by the recent fall in exchange. I saw no impropriety in acceding to your request. The regulations of the service, it is true, forbid combinations among the employés of the Government. In this case, however, I felt that it was clearly for the general advantage of all concerned, including the Government of India, that I should give you an opportunity of explaining to me, by word of mouth, the grievances set forth in your memorial—grievances, which I am glad to say, have been borne by those on behalf of whom you have spoken, with much dignity and patience.

Deputation from the Services.

I do not propose, upon this occasion, to examine in detail the statements which you have laid before me. It is not material to discuss whether any portion of your representations appear to be entitled to more or to less weight than the rest. The only point upon which I am called upon to express an opinion to-day is your main proposition, that in which you affirm that the European officers of the Government of India, as a body, have been heavy losers by the recent fall of exchange, and that their loss has been so heavy as to render the position of some of them one of the most extreme difficulty and distress. That proposition you have certainly made good, but when I say this, I should like to add my assurance that it did not need the powerful arguments which you have adduced in order to convince me that the fall in the gold value of the rupee has been the cause of very great suffering to those of our officers whose emoluments are drawn in rupees, and whose liabilities, are, to a considerable extent, due in sterling. You have shown conclusively that many of those liabilities are of a kind which they cannot avoid except at the cost of very cruel hardship to themselves, or—and it is no doubt this that they feel most keenly—to those nearest and dearest to them.

I am concerned, not to dispute or to minimise the extent of that suffering, but to convince you, if I can, that the Government of India is not indifferent to it, and that it is our sincere desire to deal fairly with you in regard to this most momentous question.

Now, I am anxious to make this point good, because I have seen it stated that our attitude has been one of carelessness, and that we have been sitting with our hands folded at a time when we ought to have been bestirring ourselves actively in order to redress your wrongs. In reference to this part of the case, I should like to touch briefly upon the history of the matter since I have had to do with it.

The Exchange Question.

I arrived in India at the end of the year 1888. Throughout the whole of the year 1889, the gold value of the rupee remained almost stationary. On the 1st January it was 1s. 4 $\frac{7}{10}$ d.; at the end of the year it was 1s. 4 $\frac{25}{10}$ d., and the fluctuations during the intervening months were inconsiderable. In the following year the upward movement of exchange commenced, the rupee rising from 1s. 5d. in January to 1s. 8d. in September. During the summer months it advanced so rapidly that it must have been obvious to us all that speculation had something to do with what was taking place. A downward movement declared itself towards the close of the year, and continued throughout 1891, although the fall was not rapid. At the end of 1891 the rupee stood almost exactly where it did at the beginning of 1890. The average rate for 1890-91 was, as you have pointed out, 1s. 6d. Taking these three years, we may say that we had, first, a year of slack water, and then, in the two years which followed, a rise, succeeded by a fall almost exactly equal to the amount of the rise. It was not until the spring of 1892 that we found ourselves face to face with a collapse more serious than any which had yet taken place. Since then the tendency has been steadily downward, the rupee has touched the lowest point yet recorded, and the prospects of a material recovery are certainly remote.

I dwell upon this because I wish to show you that, in so far as I have been concerned with this question, up to the last few months the situation contained some hopeful elements, and it is, therefore, as to the attitude of the Government of India since the last rapid and heavy fall declared itself that you have, I think, a special right to ask for some explanation.

Now, in the first place, you will remember that, by the beginning of the year 1892, we were already aware that an International Monetary Conference was to meet for the

Deputation from the Services.

purpose of considering the whole question of the Currency of the world. Many of us were, I am afraid with too much reason, not very sanguine as to the results of the Conference. The decision of Her Majesty's Government to take part in it showed, however, that it was within the bounds of possibility that some measures of international efficacy might be resorted to for the purpose of rehabilitating silver. The Government of India were, at any rate, bound to take the Conference seriously, and we bestowed much thought and care upon the selection of our representatives, and upon the instructions with which they were authorised to take part in the proceedings. The investigations of the Conference were, however, not the only investigations in progress as to this question. In September, the Secretary of State decided to appoint an English Committee, presided over by Lord Herschell, for the purpose of examining the Currency question as it affected India. The enquiry entrusted to Lord Herschell's Committee was evidently intended as a serious attempt to grapple with the question in so far as it affected us, and I think you will agree with me that, while that Committee was still sitting, it would have been impossible for us to attempt a permanent settlement of questions depending upon the future of exchange. Lord Herschell's Committee has, until quite lately, been engaged in taking evidence, and we have not yet learned the conclusions to which it has come, or the action which the Secretary of State is likely to take in consequence.

But you may ask me why could you not, without committing yourselves in regard to a permanent settlement of the question, adopt some temporary measure for the purpose of diminishing our difficulties? That, Gentlemen, is a question which, I can assure you, was considered, and considered with the utmost care, by the Government of India. We had, however, to bear in mind that, even a temporary measure would raise most difficult issues, and

The Exchange Question.

require the most delicate adjustment, that such a measure could not fail to be a costly one, that, in order to provide the necessary funds, we should have had to disturb the whole of our financial arrangements for the year 1892-93,—arrangements which had been made before the last great fall in exchange had declared itself, that we might possibly have been driven to resort to additional taxation, a step which would obviously have been most objectionable for any temporary purpose. Finally, it was conceivable that the enquiries which were proceeding in Europe would result in a state of things which might render relief unnecessary.

It was for these reasons that we did not come forward with any proposals of a temporary character. I hope, however, you will not suppose that, because no such measures were put forward, we had dismissed the whole matter from our thoughts. Nothing could be further from the truth. In June of last year we directed the attention of the Secretary of State to the distress caused to our European officers by the fall in the sterling value of the rupee, and we pointed out that, if the present conditions continued, it would, in our opinion, be inevitably necessary to take steps for the purpose of mitigating the sufferings of our officers. About that time we were sending home memorials from members of the Services by every mail.

Three months later, in September of the same year, we again called the Secretary of State's notice to the fact that the distress of our officers was very severe; that it extended to every branch of the service in which Europeans were employed, and that we regarded with grave apprehension the consequences which would result to the administration if we were to allow the existing difficulties to continue without attempting to apply a remedy. We even went the length of examining some of the proposals which had been made to us with a view of alleviating

Deputation from the Services.

these difficulties, and, while we refrained, for reasons of the kind which I have just given, from making any recommendation for the immediate adoption of remedial measures, we expressed a strong opinion that, unless a substantial rise in the gold value of the rupee were to occur, we should find it necessary to propose some measure of relief, such as those which we had mentioned to His Lordship.

And, Gentlemen, I may observe that I have, myself, in all my communications with the Secretary of State, lost no opportunity of representing to him, in the most emphatic terms, my strong sense of the very grievous hardship to which the Services were being subjected.

I am bound to add that I am left in no doubt of the sympathy with which Her Majesty's Government regards your case, and it is, I have no doubt, as an indication of that sympathy that Lord Kimberley has recently authorised the payment of furlough allowances, pending any action which may be taken as the result of Lord Herschell's enquiry, at the rate of 1s. 4½d., so as to relieve the recipients of those allowances from the effects of the heavy additional fall which has taken place since the commencement of 1892.

Gentlemen, I trust that I have said enough to show you that we are certainly not chargeable with indifference in this matter. Our suspense will, it is to be hoped, not last much longer. The Monetary Conference has now adjourned without coming to any decision. We have yet to know what course the Secretary of State will adopt, in consequence of the report which he will shortly receive from Lord Herschell's Committee, but whatever may be the purport of that report, whatever may be the decision of Her Majesty's Government, we here are profoundly convinced that we cannot ask those, on whose behalf you have addressed me, to tolerate, for an indefinite period, the distress which they have borne with so much self-command for some time past. Even if we could regard their case

The Exchange Question.

coldly and cynically, even if we could remain unmoved by the sufferings which they have experienced, we could not, as men of business, conceal from ourselves the fact that good service is not to be had for bad pay, and that we cannot expect an official whose thoughts are constantly pre-occupied by domestic anxieties, such as those which you have described, to approach his official work with the spirit, vigour, and alacrity necessary to its efficient performance. But, Gentlemen, I trust that you will not suspect us of considering this question from so heartless a standpoint. We feel that it is to your cordial co-operation that the successful working of our Indian system of administration has been due in past years, and it is a source of poignant regret to us to know that your arduous duties have of late been discharged under conditions so trying and so mortifying as those to which you have, in too many cases, been subjected. It would be a grave misfortune for India if, in years to come, the Service to which you belong were to be discouraged by the inadequacy of its remuneration, or if the same class of men by which it has hitherto been filled were no longer to be attracted to its ranks.

I have endeavoured to show you that we have not been unmindful of your interests during the period of suspense through which we have been passing, and I trust that the time may be approaching when we shall be able to meet, in a just and reasonable manner, the claims which you have so temperately preferred.

I ought, perhaps, to add that, when it became known that I was to receive this Deputation, a question arose whether it should include representatives of the Military Officers employed under the Government of India. It was felt, however, that the hardship which they have suffered in common with you could be most appropriately explained by the Commander-in-Chief as head of the Army, and I am able to tell you that I have received from Lord Roberts a

Rules under the 1st an Councils Act, 1892.

statement, closely according with yours, in which His Excellency has earnestly pressed upon us the necessity of taking early steps to remedy the grievances of the Military Services,

RULES UNDER THE INDIAN COUNCILS ACT, 1892.

[At the meeting of the Viceroy's Legislative Council, held on Thursday, the 2nd February 1893, His Excellency the President made the following statement regarding the Rules under the new Indian Councils Act, 1892.] 2nd Feb. 1893.

His Excellency the President said :—Before we proceed to the business on the paper I should like to make a statement to the Council upon another matter.

Hon'ble Members will recollect that, during the last session of the Imperial Parliament, a Bill was passed affecting in several respects the Council which I have the honour of addressing, and the local Legislative Councils of Bombay, Madras, Bengal, and the North-West Provinces. The circumstances under which the measure was introduced, and the discussion which took place while it was passing through the two Houses of Parliament, are well known, and I do not think it necessary to recur to them now.

The changes introduced by the new Act had reference to the constitution of the Legislative Councils, and to their functions. As regards their constitution, the Act provided for an increase in the number of Additional Members, and conferred upon the Governor General in Council the power of making regulations as to the conditions under which such Members should be nominated. As regards the functions of the enlarged Councils, the Act gave them the right of discussing the annual Financial Statement, and also the right of addressing questions to the Government.

Rules under the Indian Councils Act, 1892.

With the object of introducing these changes, it was enacted, under clause 1 of the new Act, that the Governor General in Council may, from time to time, with the approval of the Secretary of State in Council, make regulations as to the conditions under which such nominations (*i.e.*, the nominations of Additional Members) 'or any of them, shall be made by the Governor General, Governors, and Lieutenant-Governors respectively, and prescribe the manner in which such regulations shall be carried into effect.'

The provision affecting the functions of the enlarged Councils is clause 2 of the Act, under which 'the Governor General in Council may from time to time make rules authorising, at any meeting of the Governor General's Council for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations, the discussion of the annual Financial Statement of the Governor General in Council and the asking of questions, but under such conditions and restrictions as to subject or otherwise as shall be in the said rules prescribed or declared.'

The clause contains a like provision authorising the heads of the Local Governments to make similar rules, and it is provided that rules made under the Act by Governors in Council and Lieutenant-Governors shall be 'submitted for, and shall be subject to, the sanction of the Governor General in Council,' while the rules made by the Governor General in Council are to be 'submitted for, and shall be subject to, the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council.'

Acting upon the lines thus laid down for our guidance in the two clauses which I have quoted, we at once entered into correspondence with the Local Governments with a view to framing regulations under clause 1 for the nomination of Additional Members. We also prepared rules with regard to the discussion of the Financial Statement and the asking of questions in this Council, and we entered into correspondence with the Local Governments

Rules under the Indian Councils Act, 1892.

as to the rules which were to be made for similar purposes in the case of their Legislatures.

The question was one of some difficulty, and necessitated a considerable amount of correspondence. We did not think it necessary to insist upon absolute uniformity as between province and province in the matter of the new rules, but it was obviously desirable that they should be framed in a uniform spirit, and in accordance with what we believed to be the general principles accepted by Parliament when the Act was passed.

We were able to arrive at an understanding with the Local Governments before the end of the Simla season, and by the end of October last our proposals had been submitted to the Secretary of State.

It was my earnest hope that we should have obtained the sanction of Her Majesty's Government by a date which would have enabled us to bring the whole of the new rules into operation at the commencement of the present session, but it is scarcely matter for surprise that the Secretary of State should have thought it necessary to examine carefully proposals so far-reaching and so important as those which we have submitted to him, and we learnt a few days ago that, in consequence of a legal difficulty which had been encountered in reference to the new regulations for the appointment of Additional Members, it was not likely that we should, for some little time to come, be made aware of His Lordship's views upon the whole question.

Under these circumstances we considered it desirable to apply to Her Majesty's Government for permission to introduce immediately that part of the new procedure which has reference to those enlargements of the functions of the Legislative Councils, of which I spoke just now. I am glad to say that this suggestion was readily agreed to by Lord Kimberley, and that we have received his sanction to introduce at once the new rules under which, in future,

Rules under the Indian Councils Act, 1892.

Hon'ble Members will have the right of discussing our financial proposals, and of addressing questions to us on matters of public interest. The new rules will be published in the official Gazette, but it may be desirable that I should take this opportunity of stating briefly what their substance will be, and of mentioning one or two considerations by which we have been guided in framing them.

The rules for the discussion of the Financial Statement are of the briefest and simplest character. They merely lay down that —

- (i) the Statement shall be explained in Council every year and a printed copy given to each Member ; that
- (ii) after the explanation has been made. each Member shall be at liberty to offer any observations he may wish to make on the Statement and that
- (iii) the Financial Members shall have the right of reply, and the discussion shall be closed by the President making such observations, if any, as he may consider necessary.

The rules for the discussion of the Financial Statement in the Local Legislatures are framed upon the same lines, and I need not further refer to them.

The privilege thus conferred upon the Legislative Councils is, I venture to think, one of great importance. I have, more than once, expressed in this room my strong opinion that the present practice, under which the Council has been allowed an opportunity of criticising the Financial policy of the Government of India only upon those occasions when financial legislation was resorted to, could not be defended. The right to criticise the financial administration of a Government is one of which it is impossible to over-estimate the value, and I have never concealed my opinion that it was improper as well as illogical that that right should be frequently denied merely upon the

' Rules under the Indian Councils Act, 1892.

technical ground that no Bill upon which a financial debate could be originated happened to be before the Council. The right to discuss, and to criticise, is one which should be either altogether withheld, or altogether conceded. The present arrangement, under which it has been exercised one year and held in abeyance the next, is altogether indefensible. These financial discussions will now take place with regularity, and not upon sufferance, and I feel no doubt that both the public and the Government of India will gain, the one by the wider knowledge and insight into public affairs which it will obtain, the other by the increased opportunity which will be given to it of explaining its position, and defending its policy.

I will now pass to that portion of the new regulations which has reference to the asking of questions under section 2 of the Councils Act of last year. The main point which we found ourselves called upon to consider had reference to the conditions and restrictions under which the newly conferred right should be exercised. We propose that at least six days' notice shall ordinarily be given in writing to the Secretary in the Legislative Department of any questions which an Hon'ble Member intends to ask; but that the President may, if he thinks fit, allow a question to be asked with shorter notice, or may require a longer notice, should the circumstances demand it.

We have laid down that questions must be so framed as to be merely requests for information, and must not be put in an argumentative or hypothetical form, or in defamatory language. No discussion will be permitted in respect of an answer given to a question. These two restrictions are substantially identical with those under which questions may be put to Her Majesty's Government in the British House of Commons. A question, of which notice has been given by one Member, may, if he so desires, be asked by another Member on his behalf.

Rules under the Indian Councils Act, 1892.

There remains one point of the utmost importance. We had to consider whether it was desirable to specify certain subjects with regard to which questions should be inadmissible. It is obvious that there are some matters with regard to which no Government can allow itself to be publicly interpellated, such matters, for example, as military preparations at a time when hostilities are in progress or in contemplation, or matters of financial policy involving the premature disclosure of information affecting the market. The conclusion to which we came was that it was better, at all events in the early days of the new procedure, not to commit ourselves to any such specification of subjects. The impropriety of a question may be due quite as much to the time and circumstances under which it is asked as to the subject-matter, and although we believe that experience may possibly enable us to lay down rules of the kind suggested, we are of opinion that, for the present, it will be desirable to content ourselves with taking power for the President to disallow a question upon the ground that it cannot be answered consistently with public interests. The reformed Councils will, I have no doubt, show a proper appreciation of the limits within which the right of interpellation can be exercised without injury to public interests, and I have every hope that it will very rarely be found necessary to resort to the veto of the President. I may add that in this case also the rule adopted is similar to that in force in the House of Commons.

The rules as to questions asked in the Local Legislatures are conceived in the same spirit, but they contain two special and important restrictions. Under the first of these, Members of Council are precluded from asking questions with regard to matters or branches of the administration other than those under the control of the Local Government. The second restriction is this, that in matters which are, or have been, the subject of controversy be-

Rules under the Indian Councils Act, 1892.

tween the Governor General in Council, or the Secretary of State, and the Local Government, no question shall be asked except as to matters of fact, while the answer must be confined to a statement of the facts. The necessity of both these restrictions is, I think, so obvious that I need not take up the time of the Council by defending them.

These are the changes which will come into immediate operation. Of those which are likely to follow, and which affect the constitution, as distinguished from the functions, of the Councils, I am obviously precluded from speaking while the matter is still in the hands of the Secretary of State. I will, however, venture to say that, even if the changes which we have been able to introduce were to stop short with those which I have now explained,—and I do not suggest for a moment that this is likely,—a very material advance will have been made in the direction of increasing the usefulness of the Legislative Councils. Their functions have, until now, with the solitary exception to be found in those occasional discussions of the Budget which I have just mentioned, been strictly and narrowly limited to those of assisting the Government of India in the work of legislation. They have been absolutely precluded from asking for information, or inquiring into matters of public interest. In advising Her Majesty's Government to allow us to exceed these limits, we feel that we have taken a very serious and far-reaching step. We have taken it under a deep sense of the responsibility which we have assumed; we are fully aware that we are effecting a radical change in the character of these Legislatures; but we are profoundly convinced that the time has come when it is desirable to bring them into closer touch with the rest of the community, and that the reform which we are about to introduce is one which will be for the advantage of the Government as well as of the people of this country.

I ought, perhaps, to add that the new rules will be published in the Gazettes immediately.

DEPUTATION FROM THE INDIAN CURRENCY ASSOCIATION.

3rd February 1893. [A large and representative Deputation from the Indian Currency Association waited upon the Viceroy at 10 A.M. on Friday the 3rd February 1893, to lay before His Excellency their views on the Currency question. The Deputation was headed by the Hon'ble J. L. Mackay, President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and a Member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council, who stated the circumstances under which the Deputation had come before His Excellency. Speeches were made by several members of the Deputation representing various interests, all referring in the strongest terms to the ruinous result of the present state of the currency to business and trade, from matters which came within their own personal knowledge. The Viceroy in replying to the Deputation spoke as follows :—]

Gentlemen,— I am much obliged to this Deputation for the clearness with which it has laid its views before me. It is extremely important that the Government of India should be made aware of the manner in which these questions are regarded by all classes of the community. The gentlemen present here this morning represent a great variety of interests. You have told me that merchants, traders, ship-owners, importers as well as exporters, manufacturers and producers, the Banking interest, and last, but not least, the landed interest, are all represented here, and that among the mercantile members of the Deputation are representatives of our trade with silver as well as with gold using countries, and of our local as well as our foreign trade. Such an expression of opinion, proceeding, as it does, from independent and unofficial sources, cannot fail to carry weight both with the Government of India and with the country, which we earnestly desire to carry with us, whatever course we may determine to adopt in view of the serious state of things with which we are confronted.

Now, Gentlemen, it is an open secret that the Government of India regard that state of things with the greatest

Deputation from the Indian Currency Association.

concern. It is, I think, also an open secret that we have ideas of our own as to the steps which might be taken in order to deal with the difficulties which are daily pressing themselves upon us. It is, however, of no use to conceal from ourselves that the remedial measures which have been under discussion are regarded in some quarters with genuine alarm and with a good deal of suspicion. The latter feeling is perhaps not difficult to account for, and it is, I believe, to be explained by the fact that many persons have assumed that the advocates of such measures are actuated by selfish, rather than patriotic motives. We are constantly told, for example, that the Government of India have been too much influenced by the distress of the officials in their employment, and that our main object is, on the one hand, to mitigate the hardship of the services which have, as we are well aware, suffered cruelly by the recent fall in exchange, and, on the other, to extricate ourselves from the constant embarrassment to which our finances are exposed by the fluctuation in the gold value of the rupee.

Now, Gentlemen, as to the employés of the Government of India, they are entitled to the most abundant measure of our sympathy, and I am glad to notice that yours is extended to them ; but I think that those critics must have a very mean opinion of our intelligence who think that merely, in order to elude our obligations to the services, we should be ready to deal light-heartedly with so serious a question as that of the Currency of the Indian Empire, or to tamper, in opposition to our better judgment, with the monetary basis upon which our financial and commercial system is founded.

Again, although the inconvenience which the Government of India encounters from the fluctuations in exchange are no doubt extremely irksome and exasperating, although it is very annoying to us never to know whether

Deputation from the Indian Currency Association.

a surplus may not be converted into a deficit, or a deficit into a surplus, by speculative movements which we are wholly unable to control, although it is unpleasant to us to be roundly abused, because our forecasts are so frequently discredited, we should surely not be so imprudent, merely because we are suffering from inconveniences of this sort, as to contemplate the possibility of altering the standard of value.

Gentlemen, we are well aware that, before any project so serious and so far-reaching can be entertained, it is necessary to prove a great deal more than that the Government of India is exposed to annoyance, or its employes to hardship of a special kind. It is to much stronger reasons than these that we must appeal if we are to address ourselves to the question of currency reform, and it is for this reason that I regard it as highly satisfactory that gentlemen in your position, representing, as I have said, the unofficial and independent opinion of all classes of the community, should come forward in order to make us aware of the manner in which their interests are affected by the wide divergence in value which has arisen between gold and silver.

I therefore take note with the utmost attention of your emphatic statement that the present condition of thing is disadvantageous to the commerce of India generally, to importers as well as to exporters, to local as well to foreign traders, to the wage-earning classes as well as to the producer of commodities.

I also take note of your statement that you regard with the gravest apprehension the possibility that we may be driven by the recent fall in exchange to impose additional taxation on the people of this country,—a contingency which we, certainly cannot exclude from consideration, but which, having regard to the restricted sources from which taxation can be drawn, I, for one, should regard with the utmost concern. The fact that we may not

Deputation from the Indian Currency Association.

improbably find ourselves face to face with the necessity of resorting to additional taxation in order to extricate ourselves from our difficulties, seems to me by itself to be a sufficient answer to the assertion that our troubles are of a kind which affect, not the people of India as a whole, but the foreign sojourners, represented, it is said, chiefly by the British Officers of the Government of India.

I note again the declaration of your belief that, owing to the fall in the gold value of the rupee and the uncertainty with regard to the future of exchange, capitalists are deterred from investing their money in this country, the development of which is in this manner most seriously retarded. You have reminded me, on the other hand, that owing to the embarrassment of our finances, the Government of India is itself obliged to curtail its expenditure on useful public works, so that the stream of public as well as of private enterprise is being dried up. This, Gentlemen, is surely a consideration to which no class of the community, whether official or unofficial, can afford to be indifferent.

But, Gentlemen, it is not enough to show that the disease exists. You have also to convince us, and to convince the public, that the remedy which you have recommended is the proper remedy, and to show that its effects may not be worse than those of the disease itself. Your Association has addressed itself earnestly and with considerable skill to this task. We feel that, in dealing with this part of the case, we cannot approach the subject with too great caution. We must be persuaded not only that the remedy proposed is defensible upon strict economical grounds, but that, considered as a political measure, it is safe and expedient, and will not do violence to public sentiment, or give rise to grave and disquieting apprehensions in the minds of a people prone to regard public questions from a sentimental standpoint. In order to disarm hostility of this kind, nothing is so useful as public

Deputation from the Indian Currency Association.

discussion, and a debt of gratitude is, in my opinion, due to the Currency Association for the manner in which it has, during the past few months, ventilated this intricate question and helped to render it intelligible to the public mind.

I can promise you, in the name of the Government of India, that both your statement of the facts, and the proposal which you have laid before me, shall receive our earnest attention. They will be duly laid before the Secretary of State, and I trust that we may, before long, be able to make you aware of the decision which has been arrived at. For the moment I cannot say more. You have reminded me that the Brussels Conference has separated without coming to any conclusion, but the other, and to my mind more important enquiry which is being conducted by Lord Herschell's Committee, is, so far as we are aware, not yet concluded. We have not yet heard that the Committee has reported, nor can we anticipate the effect which the report may produce upon the judgment of the Secretary of State. Until we have received further information upon these points, the question must remain in suspense.

There are, however, two admissions which I am ready to make to you. My first admission is this, that you have, I think, strengthened your case by, for the present, restricting your proposals to that for the closing of the Mints to the free coinage of silver, leaving for further consideration those ulterior proposals for changing the standard of value from silver to gold, which were embodied in your project when it first took shape six months ago. In the next place, you are, I think, justified in holding that the proposal for introducing a standard of value which shall be common to India and to the gold using countries is *prima facie* a reasonable proposal. The burden of proof certainly seems to me to lie with those who desire to convince us that it is for the good of any given country that it should use for commercial purposes a currency of which the standard

Countess of Dufferin Fund.

differs, and differs in a constantly fluctuating degree, from the standard of value obtaining in those countries with which the greater part of its commercial business is transacted. You have pointed out in your address that other nations have deserted the silver for the gold standard, and have found advantage in doing so. It is, I think, for your opponents in this country to show that there are special reasons why a similar change should produce different results in the case of India. The Association which you represent has now for some seven months openly and fearlessly advocated the policy which you first formulated at the Simla meeting in May of last year. That policy, so to speak, holds the field, and I think you may fairly say that your opponents will have no one to blame but themselves if, owing to their failure to prove that the general opinion of this country disagrees with you, and to refute the facts and figures which the Currency Association has placed before the public, your conclusions are accepted as an authoritative statement of the interests which this Deputation claims to represent.

COUNTESS OF DUFFERIN FUND.

[The Annual Meeting of the Countess of Dufferin Fund was held at the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Saturday afternoon, the 18th February 1893. The Viceroy presided, and there was a large and representative attendance. Sir Philip Hutchins presented, in Lady Lansdowne's name, the Eighth Annual Report to be published under Her Excellency's auspices. The meeting was addressed by Lord Robert and others after which the Lieutenant-Governor proposed, and Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore seconded, a vote of thanks to the Viceroy for presiding. His Excellency, in reply, spoke as follows :—]

Your Honor, Your Excellencies, Maharaja, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is your custom to acknowledge much too generously the services rendered by the Chairman upon these occasions. The proceedings of our annual meetings

Countess of Dufferin Fund.

are so orderly and unanimous that the President has no occasion to assert himself, or to take more than a merely formal part. I do not know whether, outside this room, the Central Committee habitually encounters much opposition. If it does, it contrives to get rid of it upon these occasions. The result is no doubt convenient, but I have sometimes thought that our discussions would be more interesting and picturesque, if the critical element were more largely represented, and I think it is really worth the while of the responsible authorities of the Association to consider whether they might not follow an example which has recently been set them elsewhere and offer some encouragement to the exercise of the right of interpellation at these annual gatherings. (*Applause.*) That there is a fair prospect of interesting financial discussion upon these occasions may, I think, be inferred from the remarks of my friend the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal with regard to the relations of the Central Fund and the Fund under the control of the Provincial Committee. (*Applause.*)

Useful as these annual meetings are for the purpose of considering the position of the Association, we are, of course, well aware it is not at them that the real work of the Dufferin Fund is done. These meetings are, as it were, our parade movements, executed with proper dignity and decorum, but they would be nothing without the operations carried on in the field under the direction of the Central Committee by the local Committees, and the numerous friends of the Association, who are co-operating with them in different parts of India: the Civil Surgeons who give up their leisure to the work of the Fund, the ladies who have interested themselves in its affairs, the Public Works officers who have planned and supervised the erection of our hospitals and dispensaries. (*Applause.*) It is to their sustained efforts that the success of the Association is due, and it is to them that Lady Lansdowne wishes me

Countess of Dufferin Fund.

to return her cordial thanks for the support which they have so ungrudgingly given to her.

It is very satisfactory to her and to me to feel that, owing to that support, the Dufferin Fund has not only held its own during our connection with this country, but has taken those rapid strides to which reference has been made in the Report, and in the interesting speech with which the Hon'ble Sir Philip Hutchins presented it to you.

I will not take up your time by again recapitulating the facts and figures dealt with in the Report; suffice it to say that the Central Committee is able to tell us that the financial outlook is, on the whole, better than it ever has been. It is explained that the investments standing in the name of the Fund have risen in the last four years from 10 to 16 lakhs; that the income from donations and subscriptions now stands at no less than a lakh and a half; that the 27 hospitals and dispensaries, which were in existence at the close of Lady Dufferin's presidency, have risen to 57, and that the trained staff of the Association, which numbered 11 when Lady Dufferin left India, is now no less than 73 strong. Finally, the number of patients, as Sir Philip Hutchins has shown, has increased steadily at the rate of about 100,000 a year, and now stands at no less than half a million.

That, Ladies and Gentlemen, is a very satisfactory result, and I must say one word expressive of Lady Lansdowne's recognition of what has been done during the last two years in your own Province of Bengal. I remember well the speeches to which the Hon'ble Dr. Rash Behari Ghose referred, and how a certain feeling of mortification was experienced by all who expected great things from this province at the comparatively small result which had been achieved within it. That reproach, if it was one, has been most effectually removed, and I feel that our special acknowledgments are due to the Lieutenant-

Countess of Dufferin Fund.

Governor and to Lady Elliott for their exertions to secure such a result. (*Applause.*)

Lady Lansdowne has asked me to say for her one special word in recognition of the liberal support which the Fund has met with in many of the Indian States, and I can bear witness to the fact that, during my annual tours, I have constantly found that the Chiefs and the Rulers exhibited the strongest personal interest in the movement and took a pride in supporting it by the provision of admirably contrived and equipped hospital buildings. (*Applause.*)

She also wishes me to join her acknowledgments to those which Sir Philip Hutchins has already offered to Sir Auckland Colvin for the vigorous encouragement which, during his tenure of office, the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh never failed to give to the Association. And I must not forget that she has particularly instructed me to express her sense of the value of the services rendered by Mr. Hewett, Honorary Secretary of the Central Committee, who is about to vacate his office. (*Applause.*) The Committee is fortunate in having secured, as Mr. Hewett's successor, so excellent a man of business as Colonel Pritchard, who will no doubt bring to the management of the affairs of the Fund the same skill which has earned for him his distinguished reputation as Accountant-General in the Military Department. (*Applause.*)

But, Ladies and Gentlemen, satisfactory as this Report is, I trust that the Association will not allow itself to believe that no further efforts are necessary in order to ensure the success of the movement. Nothing could be further from the truth. A great deal yet remains to be done before we can take it for granted that its place in this country is well assured. Now, I do not propose to detain you with any remarks as to the future that lies before

Countess of Dufferin Fund.

it, and I wish to express my hearty concurrence with the general tone of the speeches which have been delivered, notably by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and by Dr. Rash Behari Ghose in regard to this point. Both of them warned us against regarding what had been achieved in the past with too much confidence and too much exultation. It is quite true, I hope, that the Dufferin Fund has passed through a very critical period of its career, but you may depend upon it that trying times are ahead of us, and that, if a good deal has been done, a great deal more has yet to be accomplished before we can regard the movement as thoroughly well established with an assured future in this great country. I hope that the time will come when it will receive a much more general measure of support than is accorded to it at present, a support I mean which will be continuous and steady and not merely, as is apparently to some extent the case at present, spasmodic and varying according to the amount of interest taken in it by persons in prominent positions.

I also hope that, as time goes on, we shall notice the disappearance of one difficulty to which Sir Philip Hutchins refers—I mean the apparent reluctance of young women of the better class, and with a sufficient general education, to devote themselves to medical work. I earnestly trust that, in time to come, the profession which we ask our students to adopt will be regarded as an attractive and honourable one, and that the most intelligent and best educated of our Indian girls will show themselves ready to adopt it. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen, it remains for me to thank you, on behalf of Lady Lansdowne and myself, for the great kindness with which you have referred to our names. We shall not readily forget our connection with the Dufferin Fund, and we shall watch with the most friendly interest over its progress long after we have left India.

Distribution of prizes to the Calcutta Presidency Volunteers.

I am sure that Lady Lansdowne will cherish in her memory the kindly words in which she has been referred to during the course of the proceedings this afternoon. She and I both, with all our hearts, wish success to this movement, and trust that it may come to gain for itself an assured and permanent place as a great and useful national institution in this country. (*Loud and continued applause.*)

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES TO THE CALCUTTA
PRESIDENCY VOLUNTEERS.

th Mar. 1893.

[On Saturday afternoon, the 4th March, Her Excellency the Marchioness of Lansdowne distributed the Prizes to the Presidency Volunteers of Calcutta. The proceedings took place in the grounds of Government House and were witnessed by a large number of spectators. After a formal inspection of the Battalion, His Excellency addressed the several Corps as follows :—]

Colonel Chatterton, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the Presidency Volunteers,—It gives me much pleasure once more to see the Battalion on parade, and I am glad to be able to congratulate you upon the strength in which you have turned out, and upon the appearance of the different Corps which are represented upon the ground. I am also able to add what you will value much more than any commendation of mine, which is that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, in whom the Volunteers of India are about to lose a tried and consistent friend, has expressed his entire approval of the appearance of the Battalion.

It is very satisfactory to me to know that the history of the Battalion during the past 12 months has been, in every way, creditable to it. The five Corps have recently been inspected by General Lance, and he has borne witness to the excellence of their drill, and to the soldierlike manner in which they have acquitted themselves.

Distribution of prizes to the Calcutta Presidency Volunteers.

The performance of the Battalion in regard to musketry has been not less creditable than in former years. During the present season the Punjab and North-West Volunteers have, on three occasions, challenged Calcutta to a friendly contest, and have upon each occasion encountered defeat.

"B" Company of the Calcutta Volunteer Rifles, which I have had the pleasure of complimenting upon former occasions, has repeated its success of last year, and has again headed the list in the Team Volley Matches of the Bengal Presidency Rifle Association, with a record score showing all 56 shots on the target, and a total of 218 points, or an average of nearly 4 points per shot, a most remarkable and creditable performance, of which the Calcutta Volunteer Rifles may well be proud.

The same Company, for the fourth year in succession, has won the Inter-Company Challenge Shield, and one member of the Company has earned special distinction by carrying off prizes in every large meeting of the year.

I must say a word of special commendation in regard to the shooting of the Cadet Battalion. The Companies of St. Joseph's School, of St. Xavier's, and of the Free School, have specially distinguished themselves. The St. Joseph's Company has, in particular, been conspicuous for the number of prizes which it has won, and I am glad to acknowledge that that success is due to the personal interest taken in the Company by the Reverend Brothers of that School, who have recognized, and I think very wisely, the importance of military training and discipline as a part of the education of the lads committed to their charge.

I may add that the Annual Course Returns for the whole Battalion show steady improvement, and that in the shooting, both of individual members, and of teams, a high level of excellence has been maintained, showing conclusively how much attention has been paid to this most important subject.

Distribution of prizes to the Calcutta Presidency Volunteers.

I am glad to hear that all the Corps, with the exception of the Cadets, have been able to hold Camps of Exercise, and I must express my admiration of the manner in which the Calcutta Light Horse, as well as the Infantry Corps, got through their work in Camp, in spite of considerable discomforts under canvas, owing to the extraordinary inclemency of the weather. The Calcutta Light Horse were fortunate in securing the assistance throughout the time when they were in camp, of Captain Edwards, the Adjutant of the Behar Light Horse. Captain Edwards' presence no doubt largely contributed to the success of the inspection at which the Corps was so warmly commended by the Cavalry Officer who commands the Brigade.

As this is the fifth occasion on which I have seen the Battalion on parade, I may be allowed to express the gratification with which, during the past four years, I have watched the steady increase in the strength of the different Corps. The Calcutta Light Horse, which in 1889 numbered 85, now has 129 members. The Cossipore Artillery, which had a strength of 210 in 1889, now has a strength of 246. The two Battalions of Calcutta Volunteer Rifles, which were 1,079 strong in 1889, now number no less than 1,389, and the strength of the Eastern Bengal Railway Volunteers has risen within the same period of time from 272 to 458. The grand total of the Battalion, which numbered 1,646 upon the first occasion of my inspection of it after I arrived in India, now stands at 2,222.

Colonel Chatterton, it is a source of no little pride and satisfaction to myself that I have been connected with the Regiment as its Honorary Colonel, and that it has increased both in strength and efficiency during the time of my connection with it. I am glad to have this opportunity of assuring you, in the name of the Government of India, that we greatly appreciate the public spirit shown by the Presidency Volunteers, and that it is our earnest desire to do what we can to promote the efficiency and the wel-

Constitution of Legislative Councils.

fare of the Corps. I hope that the continued and increasing interest thus shown by the citizens of Calcutta in the Volunteer movement will be maintained in years to come, and that on the part of the Government of India there will be no failure to accord to the Volunteers an honorable place in our military system, and to give them the support and encouragement which they have a right to expect. I hope that on your side there will be no falling off in the strong sense of duty, and the manly enthusiasm which has induced you to devote your time and your energy to the military service of the Crown.

[The prizes were then distributed by Lady Lansdowne.]

CONSTITUTION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

[At the meeting of the Legislative Council of the Governor General held at Government House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 16th March 1893. His Excellency the President made the following statement before proceeding to the business on the notice paper.] 16th Mar. 1893.

When, upon a recent occasion, I made a statement to the Council with regard to the procedure to be adopted under the Indian Councils Act of last year, in so far as that procedure had to do with the right of Interpellation, and of Financial discussion, I said that it was out of my power, for the moment, to make any announcement as to the regulations affecting the nomination of Additional Members.

I am glad to inform the Council that the difficulty which I then mentioned as having prevented the Secretary of State from giving his consent to our proposals, and which I shall presently explain, has been satisfactorily surmounted, and I am now able to tell the Council how the matter stands both in regard to the Local Councils, and in regard to that which I have now the honour of addressing.

Constitution of Legislative Councils.

It is, I think, important that we should have a clear idea at the outset of the extent to which these questions have been taken out of our discretion by the terms of the Act, and how far we are free to deal with them by means of the Rules which I am about to lay upon the table.

In the first place, the maximum number of Additional Members has been, in all cases, fixed by the Act. In Madras and Bombay the present strength is represented by a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 9, including the Advocate-General. Under the Act, there is to be a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 21. The condition laid down in the Act of 1861, that one-half of the Additional Members must be non-officials, still remains in force.

In the Bengal Legislative Council the present maximum number of Councillors is 12, and this figure is raised by the new Act to 20, subject to the old condition that one-third of the Additional Members must be non-officials.

In the North-Western Provinces the present strength of Additional Members is 9 and the maximum under the Act is 13, of whom, as in the case of Bengal, one-third must be non-officials.

These maximum numbers were fixed after much consultation with Her Majesty's Government, and with the Local Governments concerned. It is, I think, clear that no one can take upon himself to lay down confidently that, in the case of Legislative bodies like these, any one particular number is exactly appropriate. Our communications with the Local Governments, to which I have just referred, disclosed a certain amount of variety of opinion, although the divergence was within comparatively narrow limits. I may, however, say that when the question was first taken up—and Hon'ble Members will recollect that this Bill has been before Parliament for at least three Sessions—we found a complete consensus of opinion on the part of all the Local Governments consulted in favour of the view that the Councils might, with advantage, be

Constitution of Legislative Councils.

enlarged, and that it was desirable to increase their authority, and to give them a constitution under which they would be able to afford to the Provincial Governments a larger measure of assistance and support.

There was another point upon which the consensus of opinion of the Local Governments was equally noticeable. It was felt by all of them that what was desirable was to improve the present Councils rather than to attempt to put in their place bodies comprising a large number of persons, and possessing the attributes of Parliamentary assemblies of the European type. It is a little remarkable that, although the measure was, as I said just now, during three successive Sessions before Parliament, no serious attempt was, to the best of my belief, made to substitute largely increased numbers for those which are mentioned in the present Act and in the Bills introduced in preceding Sessions.

Another provision of the Act which requires to be specially considered, in addition to those which have reference to the numbers of the Additional Members, is the provision which has reference to the manner in which they are to be nominated. It is laid down in Section I (4) that the "Governor General in Council may from time to time, with the approval of the Secretary of State in Council, make Regulations as to the conditions under which such nominations, or any of them, shall be made by the Governor General, Governors, and Lieutenant-Governors respectively, and prescribe the manner in which such Regulations shall be carried into effect."

It is under this section that the Regulations to which I am about to refer have been made.

Now, it will not escape the attention of the Council that, under the words which I have quoted, the responsibility for these nominations remains with the Governor General and the heads of the Local Governments concerned, and the Secretary of State, in forwarding the Act to us officially,

Constitution of Legislative Councils.

was careful to point out that "the ultimate nominating authority still rests with those to whom it was entrusted by the Statute of 1861, and that the responsibility attaching to the careful exercise of this authority by no means diminishes as the number of non-official Members increases, and as the scope of their attributes is enlarged."

It was, however, clearly understood, throughout the discussion of the measure, that, subject to this ultimate responsibility, the authority upon whom the duty of making the nomination was thus cast should be encouraged to avail himself, as far as the circumstances permitted, of the advice and assistance of any public bodies whose character and position rendered it likely that they could be consulted with advantage. I will read to the Council the words in which this part of the subject was dealt with by the Secretary of State. Writing on the 30th June 1892, he says—

"It appears to me probable, nevertheless, that the diffusion in the more advanced Provinces of education and enlightened public spirit, and the recent organisation of Local Self-Government, may have provided, in some instances, ways and means of which the Governments may appropriately avail themselves in determining the character that shall be given to the representation of the views of different races, classes, and localities. Where Corporations have been established with definite powers upon a recognised administrative basis, or where Associations have been formed upon a substantial community of legitimate interests, professional, commercial, or territorial, your Excellency and the Local Governors may find convenience, or advantage, in consulting, from time to time, such bodies, and in entertaining at your discretion an expression of their views and recommendations with regard to the selection of Members in whose qualifications they may be disposed to confide."

Constitution of Legislative Councils.

There can be no doubt, I think, that the language thus used by the Secretary of State reflected the general feeling on both sides of the British Parliament. It would be easy to multiply quotations, but I will content myself with referring to the important statement made during the course of the debate on the Second Reading by Mr. Gladstone who, the Council will remember, was then leader of the Opposition.

He pointed out that the only reasonable interpretation which could be put upon the clause giving the Governor General power, not only to nominate Additional Members, but to make regulations as to the conditions under which they were to be nominated, was an interpretation which assumed that something was meant "beyond mere nomination." "The speech of the Under-Secretary," he said, appeared to him "to embody the elective principle in the only sense in which we should expect it to be embodied. My construction of the Under-Secretary's speech is that it implies that a serious effort should be made to consider carefully those elements which, in the present condition of India, might furnish material for the introduction into the Councils of the elective principle." Towards the commencement of his speech Mr. Gladstone had pointed out that the proposals of Her Majesty's Government were apparently intended "to leave everything to the discretion, judgment, and responsibility of the Governor General and the authorities in India," and, after dwelling upon the difficulty and responsibility of the task, he added: "I am not disposed to ask of the Governor General or of the Secretary of State that they shall at once produce large and imposing results. What I wish is that their first steps shall be of a genuine nature, and that whatever scope they give to the elective principle shall be real."

I should like at this stage to dwell upon the fact that the Government of India, ever since I have had the honour

Constitution of Legislative Councils.

of being connected with it, while it has insisted upon the ultimate responsibility of the Government for these nominations, has constantly urged that any Bill which might be passed should render it possible for the Governor General, and for the heads of the Local Governments, to have recourse to the advice of what, for the want of any more convenient expression, I will describe as 'suitable constituencies.'

I will venture to quote to the Council an extract from a Despatch sent home by us as long ago as the 24th December 1889, in which we placed on record our opinion that it would be "well that the measure about to be laid before Parliament should not absolutely preclude us from resort to some form of election where the local conditions are such as to justify a belief that it might be safely and advantageously adopted."

We went on to say that "we should have been glad if the Bill had reserved to us authority to make rules from time to time for the appointment of Additional Members 'by nomination or otherwise,' and we should have considered it sufficient if the consent of Your Lordship in Council had been made a condition precedent to the validity of such rules. Such an enactment would have provided for the gradual and tentative introduction of a carefully guarded mode of electing Additional Members."

I am glad to have had the opportunity of referring to what we said upon this occasion, because I have seen it not unfrequently stated that the Government of India had strenuously opposed the introduction of anything approaching to the elective principle into the Bill, and that we had accepted it reluctantly and under pressure.

These, then, are the conditions under which we are called upon to frame Regulations for the appointment of Additional Members. I think the first observation which it would occur to any one to make would be that, given

Constitution of Legislative Councils.

Legislative bodies of the dimensions prescribed for us, or of any dimensions approaching to those laid down in the Act, it would be altogether hopeless to attempt the introduction of a representative system in the sense in which the words are understood in Western communities. How, for instance, would it be possible in a province like that of Bengal, with a population of 70 millions, to allot the handful of seats at our disposal so as to divide the country, either in respect of geographical areas, or in respect of the different communities which inhabit it, in such a manner as to distribute the representation equitably, or to make it really effectual? And I am bound to admit that to the best of my belief even those who are credited with opinions of the most advanced type upon Indian political questions have carefully guarded themselves against being supposed to claim for the people of India any system of representation closely imitating the Parliamentary system of Western Europe.

We are met, moreover, with this difficulty that, in many parts of India, any system of election is entirely foreign to the feelings and habits of the people, and that, were we to have recourse to such a system, the really representative men would probably not come forward under it.

Upon a careful review of the whole matter, and of the contents of the Act, as well as of the circumstances under which it had been introduced and passed into law, it appeared to us that the mandate under which we were called upon to act might be summarised in the four following propositions:—

- (1.) It is not expected of us that we shall attempt to create in India a complete or symmetrical system of representation.
- (2.) It is expected of us that we shall make a *bond fide* endeavour to render the Legislative Councils more representative

Constitution of Legislative Councils.

of the different sections of the Indian community than they are at present.

(3.) For this purpose we are at liberty to make use of the machinery of election wherever there is a fair prospect that it will produce satisfactory results.

(4.) Although we may to this extent apply the elective principle, it is to be clearly understood that the ultimate selection of all Additional Members rests with the Government, and not with the electors. The function of the latter will be that of recommendation only, but of recommendation entitled to the greatest weight, and not likely to be disregarded except in cases of the clearest necessity.

It is in this light that the question has been considered and discussed by us with the Local Governments. We do not believe that the seats placed at our disposal can be distributed according to strict numerical proportion, or upon a symmetrical and uniform system. We do not believe, to use Mr. Gladstone's words, that, under the Act, "large and imposing results" are to be at once obtained, but we do believe that by having resort to sources other than the unassisted nomination of the Government, we shall be able to obtain for these Councils the services of Members who will be in the truest sense representative, but who will represent types and classes rather than areas and numbers.

We believe that it should not be beyond our power to secure in this manner for the Government the advice and assistance of men connected with different parts of the country, thoroughly aware of the interests and wishes of their countrymen, and able to judge of the extent to which those interests are likely to be affected by any measure of legisla-

Constitution of Legislative Councils.

tion which may be proposed. If we can obtain men of this description, not by selecting them ourselves, but by allowing the great sections of the community a voice in the matter, we believe that the persons selected will bring to our deliberations a very much greater weight of authority than they would have possessed, had we been content to rely upon nomination alone.

It would be impossible for me, within the limits of such a statement as I desire to make this morning, to explain in detail the Rules as they will affect each of the four Local Governments concerned. I may say, however, that, in each case, we have provided by our Rules for the appointment of a number of non-official Additional Members in excess of the minimum determined by the Act, and also that we propose to use at once to the utmost the power of increasing the number of Additional Members in Bengal and the North-Western Provinces, by proclaiming the full maximum allowed under the Act. And I may here explain, in order to avoid misapprehension, what was the nature of the difficulty to which I referred just now, and also upon a former occasion, as having prevented the Secretary of State from at once giving his consent to our scheme as it stood. It was this: We had proposed that officials should be ineligible for 'election,' or, to use the strictly correct term, for 'recommendation.' A doubt, I believe, arose as to the legality of this exclusion. The legal point was eventually decided in favour of the Rule as we had framed it, but, on a full consideration of the case, the Secretary of State in Council came to the conclusion that it was not proper that the whole official class should be subjected to such a disability, and the omission of the Rule was consequently proposed by his Lordship and agreed to by us.

It may, perhaps, interest my hearers if, as an illustration of the manner in which the new Rules will operate, I mention the leading features in the Bengal scheme.

We have provided that out of the twenty Councillors who

Constitution of Legislative Councils.

may be nominated under the Act, not more than ten shall be officials. Under the Act at least one-third of the Additional Members must be non-officials. This would give the Bengal Council seven unofficial Members. Under the Rules there will be ten, and of these seven will be nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor on the recommendation of the following bodies and Associations :—

A.—The Corporation of Calcutta ;

B.—Such Municipal Corporations, or group or groups of Municipal Corporations, other than the Corporation of Calcutta, as the Lieutenant-Governor may from time to time prescribe by Notification in the *Calcutta Gazette* ;

C.—Such District Boards, or group or groups of District Boards, as the Lieutenant-Governor may from time to time prescribe as aforesaid ;

D.—Such Association or Associations of merchants, manufacturers, or tradesmen as the Lieutenant-Governor may from time to time prescribe as aforesaid ;

E.—The Senate of the University of Calcutta.

We have provided that each of the above groups shall (except as hereinafter provided in Rule VII) have at least one Councillor nominated upon its recommendation, but that the Corporation, the Mercantile Associations, and the Senate, shall have not more than one each.

It is, however, further provided that the Lieutenant-Governor may nominate to such of the remaining seats as shall not be filled by officials, in such manner as shall, in his opinion, secure a fair representation of the different classes of the community, and that one seat shall ordinarily be held by a representative of the great landholders of the Province. It was in our belief absolutely necessary that a part of the seats at our disposal should be reserved in this manner, and filled up by nomination pure and simple.

Constitution of Legislative Councils.

Only by such a reservation was it possible to provide for the representation of those sections of the community which, although sufficiently important to claim a voice in our deliberations, happen to be in a minority, and therefore unable to secure by means of their votes the return of a Member acceptable to themselves. Members thus nominated, although not owing their nomination to the suffrages of their fellow-citizens, will, we hope, be regarded as distinctly representative of the class from which they are taken.

It is also laid down that it shall be a condition in the case of any person recommended by a Municipal Corporation, or group of Municipal Corporations, that he shall be a person ordinarily resident within the Municipality of the district in which it is situated, or in some one of the Municipalities constituting the group, or of the districts in which they are situated. A similar condition is laid down with reference to persons recommended by District Boards.

There are other provisions relating to matters of detail, but I do not think it necessary to trouble the Council with them, as the Rules will be published forthwith.

The Rules for Madras and Bombay, and for the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, differ in some particulars, but are conceived in the same spirit. These also will be published without loss of time.

It remains for me to say a few words with regard to the manner in which it is proposed to deal with the Council which I have the honour of addressing.

The Government of India has, from the first, held that the reform of the Viceroy's Council must, to some extent, be dependent upon, and subsequent to that of the local Councils. It seemed to us that, if the difficulty of obtaining an effectual system of representation was great in the case of the local Councils, it must, *à fortiori*, be greater still in the case of a Council entrusted with the duty of legislating for the whole of India, and, in our belief, the

Constitution of Legislative Councils.

strongest argument in favour of dealing, in the first instance, with the local Legislatures was that we were likely to find in them, when they had been strengthened and reformed, the most convenient electoral bodies for the purpose of choosing a part at all events of the Additional Members who will be appointed to the Legislative Council of the Viceroy.

This view found much acceptance in Parliament. In his speech in the House of Lords on March 6th, 1890, Lord Northbrook said—"For the present he would not be disposed to go further in respect of the Supreme Council except, perhaps, to allow a selection by each of the subordinate local Legislatures."

In the same debate Lord Ripon remarked—That "he was glad to concur with his noble friend who had just spoken" (Lord Northbrook) "in the expression of a desire to see the elective or representative element introduced into those Councils. If that step were taken, it would be desirable to introduce the same element into the Council of the Governor General, very likely in the manner suggested, by selection from the local Councils."

We have made a proposal of this kind to the Secretary of State. The maximum number of Additional Members who can be nominated to the Governor General's Council is sixteen. Of these at least eight must, under the Act, be non-officials. We have recommended that there shall be ten non-officials. We have suggested that four of these might be selected and recommended to us by the local Legislatures of the four Provinces having local Councils, that one at least would be required to represent the interests of Commerce, and that one might perhaps be chosen from the Calcutta Bar. We propose that the discretion of the Viceroy with regard to the sources from which the remaining four might be obtained should be interfered with as little as possible. There may be found in those Provinces which do not possess Legislative Councils certain classes and sections

Constitution of Legislative Councils.

of the community so far accustomed to collective action in the promotion of their common interests that they would be qualified to unite in submitting a recommendation in respect of any seat which the Governor General may desire to fill up from a particular Province, and we have been in communication with the Governments of these Provinces upon this subject. It is, however, clear that whatever arrangement may be made with this object should be as elastic as possible. We might, for example, find from time to time that the consideration of some particular measure requires the presence in this Council of a Member specially conversant with the subject, or with the territories which the contemplated legislation will affect, and this contingency must certainly be provided for in the case of those Provinces which have no local Legislatures, and for which such legislation as is required must be undertaken in the Council of the Governor General. We do not, therefore, in the case of the Provinces see any necessity for such detailed Rules for the submission of recommendations as have been proposed for the local Councils. We shall, however, endeavour as far as possible, in the event of a Member being required for this Council from any of the four Provinces not having local Councils, to give that Member, by resorting as far as possible to the system of recommendation, a more representative character than would attach to him if he were arbitrarily selected by the head of the Government.

This is the scheme which, in so far as this Council is concerned, we have submitted to the Secretary of State in terms closely corresponding to those of which I have now made use. We shall at once embody our proposals in a set of Rules which will be forwarded for the final sanction of Her Majesty's Government. I have every hope that these Rules will have been agreed to, and will be in operation before the next Calcutta Session.

I have now explained, as far as is necessary, the proce-

Constitution of Legislative Councils.

ture which will be followed in giving effect to both portions of the Indian Councils Act. It is not unlikely that our proposals will disappoint the expectations of those who would gladly see us travel further and faster along the path of reform. We claim, however, for the changes which we have been instrumental in procuring that they will, beyond all question, greatly increase the usefulness and the authority of these Legislative bodies. We are able to show that the number of Additional Members has been materially increased; that we have considerably widened the functions of the Councils by the admission of the Right of Interpellation and the discussion of the Financial Statement; and, finally, that we shall no longer rely on nominal tion, pure and simple, for the selection of Additional Members. These are all substantial steps in advance. I hope the Government of India will have the assistance of all concerned in carrying out the Rules in such a way as to secure in the most effectual manner the objects with which they have been framed. It is highly probable that experience will suggest improvements in matters of detail, and I need not say that, in so far as we are not bound by the limits indicated in the Act, we shall be glad to consider the Rules as to some extent experimental and tentative, and that we shall welcome any suggestions which may be offered to us for the purpose of making them work as satisfactorily as possible.

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

[The annual meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty 20th Mar. 1893. to Animals was held in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Monday, the 20th March, at 5 P.M. The Viceroy, who was accompanied by the Marchioness of Lansdowne, presided. Various Resolutions were passed by the meeting, which was addressed by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Norris, President of the Society, and other gentlemen. A vote of thanks having been proposed by Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna to the Viceroy for presiding, and duly passed, His Excellency spoke as follows:—]

Mr. Norris, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It gives me much pleasure to preside over the meeting of this Society, and to testify by my presence to the interest which I take in its proceedings.

I think we may safely say that, in so far as its aims and objects are concerned, the most complete unanimity exists amongst all classes. No one, whether he be a European, or a Native of this country, whether he be a Christian, Hindu, or Mahomedan, will contend that cruelty to animals is anything but detestable, or that it is not right to endeavour to save them from suffering, and to discourage by all means at our command those who would inflict it upon them.

That feeling of compassion is, I am glad to say, universally present in all thoughtful and civilised communities. It is absent only where either extreme ignorance prevails, where the finer feelings of humanity have never been developed, or where a vicious and selfish form of luxury has depraved the human mind and rendered it callous, or even ready to find a perverse enjoyment in the spectacle of suffering. Neither of those conditions prevail, I am happy to say, in this great city, and I am glad to find that for more than 30 years your Society has been at work within it, and has received a fairly satisfactory measure of support. (*Applause.*)

But, Ladies and Gentlemen, if there is no room for

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

difference as to the objects to be aimed at, there is ample room for conscientious divergence of opinion as to the means which should be adopted. The question is not what we should like to do, but what we can do, given the conditions by which we are surrounded, given the resources at our command, given the manner in which our action is likely to be regarded by those whom it will affect.

Now it is clear that there are two lines along which it is possible for those who think with us to operate. We can rely either upon private effort, upon precept and example, or we can invoke the law to our assistance and rely upon the pains and penalties which it is able to inflict.

Let me say a word first about legislation on the subject of cruelty to animals. You may remember that, soon after my arrival in India, we passed an Act, for the initiation of which I feel some personal responsibility, an Act under which persons convicted of various kinds of cruelty to dumb brutes were rendered liable to certain kinds of punishment. Other Acts, local and general, having similar objects, were already in operation, but I think I am right in saying that the Act of 1890 was a much more complete and comprehensive measure than any which preceded it, and particularly in this respect, that whereas the earlier Acts were framed only for the protection of draught animals, the Act of 1890 contains a clause in which the word "animal" is defined as including "any domestic or captured animal." The Imperial Legislature has, therefore, laid down, once and for all, the great principle that from the moment that any beast or fowl has been domesticated, or taken prisoner for our convenience, we are bound to treat it in a humane and merciful manner. One result of this enlargement of the scope of the Bill has been to bring under its operation the whole tribe of tame and wild birds which are carried about the country, or exposed for sale, before they find their way to our tables.

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

There are probably no victims upon which greater or more wanton cruelty is perpetrated than these miserable little sufferers. I am under a special obligation to mention this matter, because a kind-hearted lady wrote to me about it two or three days ago. This is what she says — "I want to ask you not to forget the poor little birds: as you have probably never taken an early walk in the market, I will explain to you that the small game birds are in many cases brought in wounded and kept alive for several days. They are tied by the legs and left to flap about upon the floor. It is a sight that has quite haunted me." I am sure you will think with me that my correspondent deserves credit for the feelings which she has expressed so pathetically. (*Applause.*) I cannot help expressing some surprise at the fact that in the list of cases taken up by the Society during the past year whereas no less than 8,004 animals are reported to have been concerned, the total number of "birds concerned," is only six.

But, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Act of 1890 was, as you are probably aware, only a permissive Act, one which did not come into operation except within those areas where the Local Governments thought it desirable to apply it. Now, to many persons all legislation which is not compulsory is contemptible. In this case I am bound to say that I should myself have been extremely glad if we could have seen our way to pass a compulsory Act of universal application, but the evidence before me satisfied me that such an Act would, upon the whole, have done more harm than good. I would ask you to remember this, that it is always a very serious thing in any country to resort to legislation, the effect of which is to make a new sort of crime, and in no country is it more necessary to bear this consideration in mind than in India. Whenever in this country you resort to penal legislation, you have to bear in mind, not only the good results which it is possible

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

to obtain, if your law is used as you mean it to be used, but the bad results which are likely to follow, if your law is dishonestly, ignorantly, or brutally enforced.

Now it is clear that legislation for the protection of animals lends itself very easily indeed to abuse. Unless you enforce such legislation with sufficient precaution, and under adequate supervision, it is, from the nature of things, likely to be used for purposes very different from those for which it was intended. It offers, for instance, facilities for intrusions into the privacy of domestic life, which would be deeply resented. We have provided against this danger by enacting that offences shall be punishable only when they are committed in the streets, or in places to which the public has access, not because such acts are more venial when committed secretly, but because we could not run the risk which would be involved by encouraging anything approaching to inquisition into the private conduct of individuals. Again, it opens a door to legal proceedings instituted upon information which may have been given for vindictive purposes, or with a view to extortion. Last, and not least, it may possibly bring the prosecuting authority into conflict with the religious scruples—and we know how deep-seated these scruples are—of certain classes of society.

And, Ladies and Gentlemen, whilst an indiscriminate resort to the use of the law would involve the whole of these risks, it would probably be ineffectual in achieving the desired results. In remote and sparsely populated places, a hundred acts of cruelty would probably be perpetrated out of sight for one that would attract attention and lead to the prosecution of the offender.

For these reasons we preferred that our Act should be a permissive one, and we left it to the Local Governments to bring it into effect only in places where the conditions were deemed sufficiently favourable to render the experiment worth trying.

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

I am glad to say that, although the Act has not been set in motion quite so generally as we might have wished, it has been largely resorted to. In Bengal it has been extended to Calcutta, to all Municipal towns, and to 64 other towns where there are Magistrates to work it. In the Punjab it has been extended to all Municipalities and Cantonments. In Burma it has been extended to the whole of Upper Burma and to 12 towns in Lower Burma. Elsewhere the Act has been more sparingly adopted. In Bombay it has been introduced only in the city of Bombay and in four other large towns. In the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, the essential provisions of it have been introduced in Allahabad and seven other large towns. In Madras, the Central Provinces, and Assam, the Act has, I am sorry to say, not been brought into operation at all, but I am bound to add that of these three Provinces, Madras and Assam have in general operation local Acts which the Administration probably prefer to retain instead of replacing them by our Act of 1890. It should also be remembered that of the Provinces where the Act has been introduced sparingly, Bombay, like Madras, has what is probably an effective law against cruelty to animals. We may, moreover, I think, hope that, even where the Act has not been in operation, it has indirectly done some good in so far as that the Government of India has by such legislation expressed directly its abhorrence of conduct which is punishable wherever the Act has been brought into operation.

But, Ladies and Gentlemen, I should be sorry if we had to rely upon legislation only. It is not by pains and penalties alone that we can hope to ensure for our dumb friends the security with which we would provide them against their oppressors. Much can be done by educating the public mind, by precept, and, above all, by example. I should be inclined to say that the object of this Society is mainly educational. To quote the words used in the opening

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Chapter of the Report, you desire "not merely to prevent cruelty towards dumb animals by the deterrent influence of legal punishment, but also to encourage and foster those merciful impulses which tend to the growth of humanity." We do not want to come down with ruthless severity upon offenders who may have offended from mere ignorance, but we do desire to preach far and wide this gospel of kindly feeling and sympathy with the whole race of dumb animals. If we can propagate sound public opinion upon this matter, we shall achieve more than can be attained by any number of successful prosecutions.

I hope, therefore, that this Society will be well supported, and I believe that, in connecting myself with it, I am furthering a movement which has the good-will of all who are not thoughtless and indifferent, and who believe that a share of the compassion and sympathy which we feel for our human fellow-creatures is due also to those other fellow-creatures whom we regard as occupying a lower position than ourselves in the animal kingdom, but who are none the less entitled to our friendly and merciful consideration. (*Applause.*)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1893.

[The debate on the Financial Statement took place, in the Legislative Council of the Governor General, on Thursday, the 30th March 1893. His Excellency the President, in closing the discussion, spoke as follows :—]

I wish, in the first place, to acknowledge, as my Hon'ble Finance Colleague has done, the considerate and practical character of the observations elicited by the presentation of the Financial Statement.

It will, I daresay, have struck Hon'ble Members that the situation with which the Government of India finds itself confronted is not a bad illustration of what is sometimes spoken of as the irony of events. It is certainly not a little mortifying to us that upon this, the first, occasion when the discussion of the Financial Statement has taken place as a matter of right under the provisions of the Act of last year, we should be driven to lay before the Council so discouraging an account of our finances, and to add the admission that, for the present, it is beyond our power to describe the means by which we can hope to extricate ourselves from the difficulties and embarrassments which surround us. How much pleasanter it would have been if the Hon'ble Financial Member had been able to tell you of overflowing coffers, or, if they were, for the moment, less full than we could have wished, to explain to you the measures by which he looked forward to refilling them in a suitable manner. I can assure my Hon'ble Colleagues that, if the suspense and uncertainty through which we are passing are trying to the public, they are not less trying to us.

I believe, however, that the Budget which my Hon'ble friend laid upon the table last week will serve a very useful purpose. It is, I cannot help thinking, the most striking object lesson in Indian finance which has yet been given to the world. My Hon'ble friend reports to us that in two years the fall in exchange has added to our liabilities a

Financial Statement, 1893.

sum exceeding four crores of rupees, a strain which he has said with truth our finances are at present unable to bear. We find ourselves compelled to restrict as closely as possible our expenditure upon those useful works on which this country depends so much for the development of its vast resources, and we are within a measurable distance of new taxation, the amount and incidence of which it is impossible to foretell, but which, if we are driven to impose it, will certainly be of an onerous kind. We are threatened with all these misfortunes, not because we have plunged the country into war, not because we have recklessly undertaken new expenditure, but because our medium of exchange is one the value of which is liable to violent and unforeseen fluctuations which we are entirely unable to control. It struck me, when the Hon'ble Member was delivering his speech last Thursday, that nothing could have given more point to what he said as to this part of his case than his announcement that in the interval of time between the compilation of the estimates and their submission to this Council, the further fall which had taken place was sufficient, if maintained throughout the year, to add Rx. 700,000 to our expenditure. There has, I am glad to say, since been some recovery, but the fact is none the less worthy of attention.

My Hon'ble friend is, I am afraid, but too well justified in regarding our position with grave apprehension. Not that, under ordinary circumstances, a deficit in an Indian Budget is necessarily a cause for very serious alarm. A country which has contracted large sterling liabilities, and which has to meet them from revenue collected in silver, cannot expect to adjust the income and expenditure of each year that passes, with close precision. If these fluctuations were of an ordinary kind, if there were a reasonable prospect that an oscillation in one direction

Financial Statement, 1893.

would be followed by an oscillation in another, we might well be content to find that, one year with another, our average income balanced our average expenditure during a term of years. Judged by this criterion, our financial history during the last four years is satisfactory enough. The Hon'ble Financial Member would be able to show that, taking the first four years of his own term of office as Finance Minister, he has had a net surplus of Rs. 5,686,000, an amount which would cover any deficit with which we can conceivably be confronted in his fifth year. Unfortunately for us, however, it is impossible to limit the question in this manner. We have to consider, not so much the years which are past and gone, as those which lie immediately ahead of us, and, if we look forward to these, there can be no doubt that we have cause for serious alarm. In spite of the slight reaction which is apparently taking place, there is absolutely nothing to show that the rapid fall in the gold value of the rupee has yet come to an end, and we should remember that, with each further fall, our difficulties increase at a progressive rate. To make my meaning clear, I may explain that, whereas a fall of one farthing in the gold value of the rupee, when exchange is at 1s. 6d., involves a loss to the Government of India of 29½ lakhs, a similar fall, when exchange is at 1s. 4d., means a loss of 37½ lakhs, while, if the same fall takes place at 1s. 2d., the loss rises to no less a sum than 48½ lakhs. No re-adjustments of taxation can keep pace with such a downward progress as this.

It is this prospect, and this alone, that makes the outlook so alarming. In other respects I believe the financial position of this country to be perfectly sound, and, as Sir G. Evans has pointed out, there are not wanting hopeful elements upon which it is possible to dwell with satisfaction. Our total indebtedness is not great, and the larger part of

Financial Statement, 1893.

it has been incurred upon useful works for which the State obtains a fair return, or which may, at all events, be regarded as valuable assets. We have been extremely careful to avoid reckless borrowing, and we have indeed, as the Hon'ble General Brackenbury has truly said, met out of ordinary revenue many liabilities which, in other countries, would have been provided for out of borrowed capital. Our land revenue has, as the Hon'ble Financial Member has shown, risen steadily in spite of somewhat adverse circumstances, and it will continue to rise. Our income from railways is progressive and the gradual development of our commercial lines will, I feel no doubt, add still further to our resources.

The large expenditure which has taken place during recent years upon special defences should, in the course of the next two years, come to an end, and our Military Budget will be thereupon relieved of a sum of some 40 or 50 lakhs per annum.

These accessions of wealth would, in all probability, counterbalance the gradual fall in our revenue from opium,—a revenue which is threatened both by Chinese competition and by political influences, but for the continued fall in the gold value of the rupee. It is, however, melancholy to reflect that, although we now take Rx. 25,000,000 of land revenue from the people of India, instead of the Rx. 21,000,000 which we received 20 years ago, the larger sum, if tens of rupees be in each case converted into sovereigns at the price of the day, represents only £15½ millions, instead of 19½ millions, for which the smaller sum was interchangeable in the seventies.

The same falling off has taken place in the gold value of our receipts from other kinds of taxation ; the taxpayer's contribution, measured in rupees, increases steadily, but measured by the standard made use of by the countries with which two-thirds of our business is transacted,

Financial Statement, 1893.

the standard in which one-third of our own liabilities has to be met, it has shrunk below the level at which it stood in the seventies ; and if the United States of America were to discontinue their purchases of silver, and a further fall in the gold value of the rupee were to follow, none of the resources which I have indicated would enable us to meet the catastrophe in which we should for the moment be involved.

It would not surprise me to find that we are asked, under these circumstances, why we do not take the public into our confidence and tell them, at least hypothetically, in what manner we believe that we might extricate ourselves from a position of so much anxiety. I must, however, express my entire concurrence in the view of the Hon'ble Financial Member, when he told the Council that it would be idle for us to disclose the nature of the remedies to which we may be driven to resort, until we have been made aware of the decision of the Home authorities in regard to the Currency question. It is conceivable that the effect of that decision may be to give early, if not immediate, relief to our finances. Upon the other hand, if that relief is not obtained, the situation will probably not remain as it is. If it is not improved, it will, bad as it now is, probably change for the worse—perhaps a good deal for the worse—and no conjectures which we can make will help us to gauge beforehand the dimensions of the difficulty which might then confront us. That we should, in this event, have to raise large sums by taxation, does not admit of a doubt. How large they will be, we have no means of judging, and we cannot, therefore, say how they might best be raised. Hon'ble Members, and the public generally, are perfectly well aware of the sources to which the Government of India is able to look for an increase of revenue, but it would be not only useless but mischievous to discuss projects for new taxation at a moment when we are in

Financial Statement, 1893.

ignorance of the amount of revenue which we should require in order to restore financial equilibrium.

I have only one observation to add upon this subject, which is, that should we find it necessary, during the present summer, to resort to new taxation in order to meet the deficit, we do not think it would be consistent with our duty to legislate for the purpose at Simla, and we should, therefore, in the event which I have contemplated, not hesitate, if necessary, to call the Council together again at Calcutta for a special Session. Whether this course will, or will not be necessary, is absolutely out of our power to determine at the present time.

With reference to the question of our Military expenditure, I need add very little to what has been so well and clearly said by the Hon'ble Military Member. That expenditure has, no doubt, increased during recent years.

I am, however, far from believing that the increase which has taken place necessarily convicts the Military authorities of extravagance. The Hon'ble Military Member was able to show that, here also, the fall in exchange has laid upon us a continually increasing burden. Since 1887-88 the Military estimates have been increased by no less a sum than Rx. 360,000 owing to this cause.

Again, there has, undoubtedly, been a considerable expenditure due to the fact that more regard is paid to the comfort and well-being of our troops than formerly. I have no doubt that this money has been well spent,—“well and wisely spent,” as Sir G. Evans has said,—upon the improvement of the Army. We know that great difficulty is found in obtaining suitable recruits owing to the competition of other professions, and, unless we pay, feed, clothe, and house our men properly, we shall find it impossible to attract to the ranks the proper class of soldier, either Native or British.

Besides this, additional expense is constantly imposed

Financial Statement, 1893.

upon us owing to alterations in the equipment and armament of the troops. If a new rifle is invented, or a new kind of ammunition adopted for the rest of the Army, we cannot refuse to adopt it for the Army of India. This is not, I think, entirely due to the influence of the "enthusiastic soldiers," to whom Sir Griffith Evans referred. I think there are many enthusiastic civilians who would loudly complain of us, if we were to refuse to furnish our soldiers with the most improved arms and equipment.

Nor must it be forgotten that, of late years, our Military liabilities have very greatly increased, partly owing to the near approach of Russia on our western frontiers, partly because, by the annexation of Upper Burma, a great addition has been made both to the British Empire and to that fringe of unsettled country which adjoins our frontier, and within which we are obliged to maintain some kind of order, not from a desire to interfere gratuitously with those independent tribes of whom Sir Griffith Evans spoke, but for the protection of our settled districts. My Hon'ble friend seemed to be under the impression that, in such cases, we were inclined to take advantage of the high state of preparedness of our Army in order to launch our troops upon these fruitless operations. All I can say is that I can testify to the reluctance of the Military authorities to allow their regular troops, and their transport animals, to be used in small bodies in these remote places, and I am under the impression that, in the recent operations on the Kachin frontier, which I think my Hon'ble friend must have had in his mind, the columns employed consisted mainly of Military Police.

It is no doubt, *prima facie*, very serious that the 1893-94 estimates should show an increase over the Budget of 1892-93. But the increases of expenditure which have been forced upon us by circumstances which we are absolutely powerless to control, amount to a larger sum than

Financial Statement, 1893.

that by which the Military Budget for 1892-93 has been exceeded. The increase in the estimates amounts, excluding expeditions, to 54½ lakhs; the increase in the obligatory expenditure to which I have referred exceeds that sum. Of the increase, no less than 24 lakhs are due to the fall in exchange, while 7½ lakhs are due to the rise of prices; and 8 lakhs to fluctuations which may be described as automatic, and which we are quite unable to regulate.

It is, therefore, beyond our power to prevent the expenditure of 1893-94 from exceeding that of 1892-93, except by insisting upon very large retrenchments, which it would be impossible to carry out suddenly, and which, if they could be carried out, would seriously impair the efficiency of our Army.

Again, it should be remembered that, out of the total of Rx. 15,700,000 shown in the Military estimates for 1893-94, about Rx. 12,000,000 are for the pay, food, and pensions of the Army. Large economies in Military expenditure can, I believe, only be effected by cutting down the numbers of the Army, or by diminishing its pay, or by depleting our reserves of stores. A diminution of the pay of the Army is out of the question. We shall be fortunate if we are not compelled to increase it before we are much older. I should be sorry to be a party to the depletion of our reserves of stores, and I trust that such a course will never find favour. It seems to follow that, if India is unable to bear the present Military expenditure, we shall have to consider whether the strength of the Army is greater than is absolutely necessary for the safety of the country. I, for one, am not prepared to admit this.

I, therefore, greatly doubt whether we shall find it possible to make large reductions in our Military expenditure, although we must do all in our power to resist further attempts to increase it. Two years hence our special de-

Financial Statement, 1893.

fences will, as I said just now it is to be hoped, be completed, and our Military expenditure thereby reduced by some 50 lakhs per annum. We shall spare no pains to economise in other directions, but I wish to avoid holding out expectations which we may be unable to fulfil. I can, however, assure the Council that the Government of India desires, as earnestly as Sir Griffith Evans does, to avoid a recurrence of exceptional expenditure on expeditions, or on any other Military objects, the necessity of which is in any degree open to question.

There is one other matter, as to which I must add a few words. It is that to which reference has been made by the Hon'ble Mr. Stevens and the Hon'ble Dr. Lethbridge. I am not at all surprised that they should have mentioned it, or that they should have reminded the Council of the grievous hardship to which European officers in the services of the Government of India have lately been subjected, owing to the rapid fall of exchange which has taken place during the last two years. Nor have I any complaint to make of the Hon'ble Mr. Stevens' account of what passed when, at the end of January, I had the honour of receiving at Government House a deputation from the Services. I then stated that the Secretary of State had left us in no doubt as to the sympathy with which Her Majesty's Government regarded their case. I said that we could not expect the sufferers to tolerate, for an indefinite period, the distress which they had borne with so much self-command for some time past, and I expressed my hope that the time was approaching when we should be able to meet, in a just and reasonable manner, the claims which the deputation had urged upon me. When I uttered these words I certainly expected that, by the time the Budget statement would be made, the suspense to which I referred would have been terminated, and I looked forward to including in our financial arrangements for the

Financial Statement, 1893.

coming year suitable provision, either of a temporary or permanent character, to meet the case of the Services. I feel no doubt that those expectations were shared by our officers, and that it was generally, and I must say not unreasonably, anticipated that the Budget statement would contain some specific engagement as to their case. If no provision has been made by my Hon'ble friend, I trust that the omission will not be regarded as an indication that we desire to shirk the question, or to postpone its consideration for a day longer than we can help. As a matter of fact, the Government of India has, since the deputation was received, submitted to the Secretary of State specific proposals with this object, and suggested to him that provision for meeting those proposals should be made in the Budget.

I have been authorised by His Lordship to make public, in his own words, the reasons for which he has found it impossible to sanction the necessary provision being made in the Budget. He telegraphed to us on the 7th of March as follows :—" I greatly regret losses fallen on European officers, and am prepared to give consideration to any measures suggested by you for remedying grievances which you represent, but it is impossible to determine what measures should be taken, apart from the questions now before me with respect to the Currency, decision upon which cannot be much longer delayed, but which cannot be expected before the Budget."

That is how the case of the Services stands, and I think it will be evident to Hon'ble Members that it is beyond our power, for the present, to do more than has been already done.

PETITIONS PRESENTED AT REWAH.

[The Viceroy visited Rewah in April 1893, and while at Govindgarh, received a number of petitions from small landholders and others. On the morning of the 12th April, a deputation of about 300 men waited on the Viceroy and formally presented their petitions. His Excellency replied to them collectively as follows :—] 12th April 1893.

It is perhaps desirable that I should say a few words in reference to the petitions which have been presented to me during my stay. You are, I think, most of you, aware that my visit to the Rewah State was made mainly with the object of enabling me to take a short rest from my official work, and to enjoy the sport for which the Rewah jungles are so famous. Since my arrival, however, I have become aware that a good many of you wished to address me on matters of business, and I, therefore, thought it better to make it known to you that I should be glad to meet you and to consider any statements which you might desire to submit to me. I should not wish you to suppose that I was indifferent to your interests, or that I was not prepared to give you the fullest opportunities of access to me.

Now, it has been impossible for me, in the short time at my disposal, to examine minutely the whole of the memorials which you have sent in. I have, however, been through them rapidly with Colonel Robertson, and I have been able to acquaint myself, in a general way, with their substance.

In the first place, I wish to say a few words about a petition which is described as "the memorial of the citizens of Rewah," and which has appended to it 800 or 900 signatures.

A good many of these, although purporting to be in the writing of the memorialists, appear to have been written by the same person, and I cannot learn that the signatures, even if they are to be, all of them, accepted as genuine, can be properly described as representing any

Petitions presented at Rewah.

important body of public opinion, either of the cultivating classes or of any other class in the Rewah State.

The next observation which I have to make as to this memorial is that most of the statements contained in it are of so vague and general a character that it would be impossible either to prove or disprove them. For example, the memorialists express their opinion that the Members of the Council are not so mindful of justice as of their own interests. They express their conviction that they have little hope of justice, now that the Dewan has become President of the Council. They state that the settlement operations have been carried out with excessive rigour, and that lands have been assessed which never had been assessed at all. They complain, in general language, of the constitution of the Courts, and they state that the police exercise excessive power, and that the ryots are not sufficiently protected from them. These are charges which, unless they are made in a much more specific and circumstantial manner, it is impossible for me to take up.

On the other hand, where the memorialists have made specific statements, they have, I believe, done so under considerable misapprehensions. For example, they attribute to the shortcomings of the Council the unsatisfactory manner in which they believe the *Paipakhar* villages to have been assessed. Now, the *chouth* assessment of these villages was referred, first to the Superintendent of the State, and then to the Agent to the Governor General, and decided by them after a most minute and careful inquiry. The case is an extremely intricate and difficult one, and it is quite conceivable that some of the persons interested may suppose that they have been ill-used. I think the memorialists show that they are not as well-informed as they should be as to the facts when they complain that the revenue of *Paipakhar* villages is assessed, sometimes in one manner and sometimes in another. They must be aware that there are different varieties of grants of this kind, and that

Petitions presented at Rewah.

it is impossible that they should all be dealt with in the same way.

Another specific complaint which I notice is the complaint that the ryots are very much oppressed because it is now the practice to take revenue in cash instead of in kind. As to this, I must be permitted to say that the experience, not only of India, but of every other country, has shown that there is no practice which lends itself more readily to oppression and ill-usage than the practice of collecting revenue in kind. In all countries, with any pretence to civilization, the practice has been, as far as possible, abandoned, and I should be very sorry to think that, in the State of Rewah, we were likely to return to the old-fashioned and discredited system.

I will notice one other specific statement which concerns me particularly. The memorialists say that the roads in certain places which I have visited have been closed to traffic, causing great inconvenience to the public. The memorialists are kind enough to say that they do not complain of the blocking referred to above, but that they cite it in order "to show that nothing is possible here." Now, let me say that I am sincerely sorry if my visit has caused them, or any one else, the slightest inconvenience. What I believe took place was that the road over which I travelled, and which had been repaired, was closed for a very few days, in order to prevent the heavy country carts from undoing the work which had been done upon it; but I am assured that an alternative road, very slightly longer, was open for cart traffic all the time.

I now come to the other memorials which have been put in by separate memorialists.

I find that a large majority of them may be classified under one or other of the following heads:—

First, there is a considerable number of Revenue cases—cases in which complaints are made that the memorialists have been too heavily assessed, or that they

Petitions presented at Rewah.

are entitled to exemptions, or favourable terms, which they have not actually received. Now, you all know that, in such cases, it is impossible to come to a just conclusion without reference to the records and the documents upon which the parties rely, and there has, obviously, not been time to refer to these. You also know that, in ordinary cases of revenue assessment, the question, after having been dealt with in the usual manner by the Settlement Officer, is referred to the Dewan, from whom again there is an appeal to the Superintendent of the State, and from his decision again any persons who are dissatisfied can appeal to the Agent to the Governor General. Finally, in an extreme case, the matter can be referred to the Government of India.

It seems to me, therefore, that there is ample security against anything like unjust and careless decisions on the part of the subordinate officials, and, where ordinary Revenue cases have been dealt with and decided by the proper authorities, it would obviously be highly improper that I should re-open them upon the strength of *ex-parte* statements.

Some of the cases, to which your petitions have reference, were disposed of many years ago, and could, under no circumstances, properly be re-opened now.

A considerable number of the memorials, again, deal with questions of disputed ownership of land. Sometimes the question is between one individual and another; sometimes between a particular person and the State. Some of these cases are still before the Courts, and some have been tried by the Courts and adjudicated upon. Great pains have been taken to strengthen and improve the Rewah Courts, and I should be sorry that any action of mine should encourage you to suppose that the decision of those Courts would be lightly disturbed by the Government of India.

Of the other memorials, some have reference to civil

Petitions presented at Rewah.

litigation as to questions other than the ownership of land and in these cases too I am not prepared to do anything which would impair the authority of the Courts, or lead you to expect the arbitrary intervention of the Executive Government in matters of which the Courts were properly seized.

Finally, I notice that a few of the memorialists refer to their alleged sufferings in consequence of their exclusion from the forests or the limitation of their right to make use without stint of forest products. Forest preservation is very apt to seem to those who live in the immediate neighbourhood of the jungles somewhat harsh and unjust, but I hope they will come in time to see that it is necessary to take some precautions to prevent the total destruction of the forest areas. The Rewah forests have already, in past years, suffered greatly from neglect, and I have no doubt that, if those which remain had not been protected, the whole of the hills in this neighbourhood would, before long, have been entirely denuded, leaving nothing but the bare rock which is to be seen in places from which the jungle has already been stripped, and which will produce neither crops nor trees. This would have been a very serious matter for the State; first, because without forests the climate of the country would be altered greatly for the worse. If these rocky hills are entirely stripped of timber, the heavy rains will altogether denude them of soil, and the cultivated lands at the foot of the hills will be liable to serious injury from floods. In the next place, the destruction of the forests would mean a serious loss to the State, which now derives a considerable revenue from forest products. I may mention that, 20 years ago, the whole of the revenue drawn by the Rewah State from forest products was less than Rs. 2,000, whereas it is now over a lakh and a half. Colonel Robertson assures me that, where the forests are preserved, the adjoining cultivators are, as a general rule, allowed to obtain a sufficient

Petitions presented at Rewah.

supply of grass and timber for their own use, free of all tax. The only exception to this rule is, I understand, that of two or three villages in this neighbourhood, where, owing to the proximity of the city of Rewah, and the consequent difficulty of preventing an abuse of the right to cut timber for fuel it was found necessary to impose a light rate. Cultivators in the neighbourhood of the reserved forests are also, I am glad to hear, adequately compensated by means of a lenient assessment for any loss which they may incur, owing to the injury done to their crops by deer and other animals.

These are the matters to which most of the memorials have reference, and, as I said just now, it is impossible for me to express an opinion with regard to them in detail until they have been more thoroughly examined. I have requested Colonel Robertson to have any doubtful cases carefully investigated, and to make me aware of the result of his enquiries. You must not, however, expect me to undertake to re-open cases which have already been decided by competent authority. Many of them are of comparatively small intrinsic importance, while the evidence upon which the complainants rely is in most instances of a very slight description.

If, on the other hand, there is any question as to the general soundness of the administration, or the prosperity at which the State has arrived under it, the evidence before me is, I am glad to say, of a most convincing and satisfactory character. The State has now been for nearly 20 years under the management of the Government of India. When, at the request of the late Maharaja, we took it over, its affairs were in the greatest disorder. The real power had passed out of the hands of His Highness; the revenue was either not paid at all or paid with great irregularity; feuds and disputes were common, and disorder was rife. The revenue in 1875 was, nominally, about seven lakhs, but only a small portion of it reached the

Petitions presented at Rewah.

treasury. The treasury itself was empty; the servants of the State had not been paid for years, and heavy debts had been incurred. At the present time the revenue is 15 lakhs, and is increasing yearly. There is a cash balance of over 8 lakhs, in addition to 7½ lakhs invested in Government Securities. There are no debts, and the State servants are punctually paid.

All classes of the community have gained by these changes. Under the old system villages were farmed out to the highest bidders for the purpose of realising the land revenue. You have now got a thoroughly and carefully prepared land settlement approaching completion, under which each cultivator pays a moderate revenue for a fixed term of years. An accurate record of the many complicated tenures in Rewah has been prepared, and secures the State against fraud and the occupiers against injustice or unauthorised encroachments.

The restoration of order into the finances of the State has rendered possible the introduction of valuable sanitary measures, which have changed the city of Rewah from a hot-bed of disease into a healthy dwelling-place; the construction of public buildings; the supply of medical relief, which is keenly appreciated by the people; and the gradual development of a system of public instruction, under which a number of your young men will, I hope, obtain an education sufficient to fit them for the service of the State as patwaris, and in other official capacities.

Finally, the Courts, Civil and Criminal, have been placed upon a satisfactory footing, and, as I said just now, are freely resorted to.

I think, therefore, when the time comes, as it must soon, for His Highness the Maharaja to assume powers as Ruler of this important State, it will be handed over to him in a condition upon which both he and his subjects may very well congratulate themselves.

It has given me great pleasure on this occasion to renew

Petitions presented at Rewah.

my acquaintance with His Highness, and to see that he is growing up into a healthy and vigorous young man.

The signatories of the Rewah memorial, to which I alluded at the outset of my speech, have expressed a hope that, in honour of my visit, I would at once confer fuller powers upon His Highness.

I do not think that it would be either in his interest, or in that of the State, that I should anticipate the decision which my successor will have to arrive at with regard to the precise moment at which full powers might be conferred upon His Highness, but I may tell you that it is the earnest desire of the Government of India that he should be given every inducement, during the next two or three years, to acquire a knowledge of the business of administration, and that Colonel Robertson has already taken special steps with this object. If, as I have no doubt will be the case, His Highness shows a disposition to profit by the opportunities thus offered to him, these opportunities will, no doubt, be increased. I have every hope that the result will be satisfactory, and that when the time comes for him to take his place amongst the Ruling Chiefs of India, he will discharge his duties in a manner which will earn for him the respect of the Government of India and the affection of his subjects.

INDIAN COINAGE AND PAPER CURRENCY BILL.

[The Indian Coinage and Paper Currency Bill was introduced into the Governor General's Legislative Council by the Hon'ble Sir David Barbour on the 26th June 1893, and passed into law on the same day. The Viceroy spoke upon the Bill as follows:—] 26th June 1893.

We shall not, I trust, be considered open to criticism, because we are disposing of this question—one of the most important which has ever come before the Legislature of this country—without going through the usual forms of our legislative procedure, and in the absence of those Additional Members of Council who do not happen to be in Simla. It will be obvious to everyone that, for reasons upon which I need not dwell, the decision which has been arrived at must be carried out forthwith, and that a prolonged discussion of this Bill, or even its amendment in any essential particular, would not be admissible.

We may, however, fairly contend that, if the question is being dealt with at this stage, as if it were a matter of executive administration, rather than one for the deliberate consideration of the Legislature, no question has ever been subjected to more thorough discussion out of doors than that with which we are concerned this morning. No debates in Council could be so instructive, or so exhaustive of the subject, as the discussions which have been proceeding in the public press, and at public meetings, upon the Currency question during the last year or two.

There is, therefore, I venture to think, no occasion for travelling again over the old ground, or for arguing at length whether it was, or was not, safe to leave this country at the mercy of a fluctuating exchange, or whether the alleged advantages accruing to certain branches of our trade under a falling exchange, were, or were not, greater than the troubles and difficulties which have already overtaken us, or than those further troubles and difficulties

Indian Coinage and Paper Currency Bill.

which would have beset us, had exchange been allowed to fall to a still lower level.

It was, I think, pretty well understood that the Government of India had some time ago arrived at a conclusion both as to the extent of the danger and as to the proper means of encountering it. The scheme, however, which we are laying before you does not rest upon our authority alone, and we are relieved from the necessity of justifying it, as we should have been expected to justify it, if it had been accepted by the Secretary of State merely upon our unsupported recommendation. We are in this position, that the proposal which we had laid before Her Majesty's Government a year ago is now accepted, not only by them, but by that Committee of experts for whose verdict we have been waiting so impatiently during the last few months.

When the composition of that Committee is considered, when we remember how many different schools of economical science were represented upon it, when we recollect how confidently it was predicted, even up to the last moment, that its members could not possibly agree in their conclusions, the fact that they have found it possible to sign, with practical unanimity, the Report which will be published in to-day's Gazette, shows, I cannot help thinking, conclusively how strong our case was, and gives to the recommendations of the Committee a weight and a force which may be described without exaggeration as overwhelming. I feel, therefore, that I should be merely wasting the time of the Council, without contributing anything to the information which will shortly be accessible to the public, if I were to attempt to add to that which will be found within the limits of Lord Herschell's Report. I will, therefore, merely venture to call the attention of those who will read that remarkable State document to one or two of the conclusions which it has established, and here let me, in the name of the Government of India, and, I hope I may say, in the name of the people of this country,

Indian Coinage and Paper Currency Bill.

express our obligation to Lord Herschell and to his colleagues for the patience and thoroughness with which they have investigated this intricate problem, and for the thoughtfulness with which they have taken into their consideration all the different aspects of a question in which so many interests and classes are concerned.

The Report of the Committee will, in the first place, I think, render it no longer possible for any one to tell us, as we have sometimes been told, that this Currency question was merely a grievance of the Indian services, or that the Government of India was interested in it, only because we desired to extricate ourselves from the embarrassment occasioned by the instability of our finances. The Report of the Commission has, once and for all, shown that far wider issues than these are involved—issues affecting not merely certain interests and certain classes of the community, but every interest and every class throughout the Indian Empire.

Upon the question of the effects of fluctuations in exchange upon the commerce of India, the Committee speak with no uncertain voice. They report that there seems to be a common agreement amongst those who differ in their views upon almost all other points, that trade is "seriously harassed" by these fluctuations, and, after a careful examination of the arguments adduced in support of this view, they express their opinion that "it cannot be doubted that it would be well if commerce were free from the inconveniences of fluctuations which arise from a change in the relation between the standard of value in India and in countries with which her commerce is transacted." And with regard to the deterrent effect of these fluctuations upon the investment of capital in India, they observe "that there can be no doubt that uncertainty as to the interest which would be received for the investment, and as to the diminution which the invested capital might suffer if it were desired to re-transfer it to this

Indian Coinage and Paper Currency Bill.

country, tends to check "British investments in India." That is precisely the view which has been again and again urged with great ability by the Association over which our Hon'ble Colleague Mr. Mackay has presided, and which has done such excellent service in familiarizing the country with the details of the Currency question. It is a view which, as I have on more than one occasion publicly said, has always seemed to me indisputably sound, and it is satisfactory to find that this view is unreservedly accepted by Lord Herschell and his distinguished colleagues.

In another passage of the Report the Committee mention that the evidence before them points to the conclusion that during recent years the silver price of Indian produce has risen, and they add that "if, as experience shows, wages respond more slowly to the alteration in the value of the standard, this rise in the price of produce must have been prejudicial to the wage-earning classes." They sum up this part of the case in these remarkable words:— "The above facts give reasons for believing that the recent fall in silver, coupled with the open Mint, has led India to import and coin more silver than she needs, and the worst of the evil is that it is a growing one. Every unnecessary ounce of silver which has been, or is being, imported into India, is a loss to India, so long as silver is depreciating in gold value, for it is, *ex-hypothesi*, not needed for present use, and it can be parted with only at a sacrifice. So far as the open Mints attract unnecessary silver to India, they are inflicting a loss upon the people of the country, and benefiting the silver-producing countries at the cost of India."

While these are the effects which have been produced by fluctuations in the rate of exchange up to the present time, the Committee leave us in no doubt that the evils which we have hitherto experienced may be as nothing compared with those still in store for us, if we are content to allow matters to drift.

Indian Coinage and Paper Currency Bill.

The Report dwells upon the large purchases of silver made by the Government of the United States under the Bland and Sherman Acts, and upon the fact that, in spite of these purchases, the price of silver has fallen to its present low level. They go on to express their opinion that, even if no change were to be made in the currency arrangements of the United States, the experience of the past would forbid the conclusion that the price of silver would be stationary at its present level. It would, they say, under these circumstances, be imprudent to act on the assumption that no further fall is possible, or even probable. It is, however, as we are all aware, a matter of notoriety that the early repeal of the Sherman Act is possible. The Committee dwell upon the heavy further fall which would certainly follow upon the repeal of the Act. They express their opinion that such a fall would not necessarily diminish the production of silver, and that, under such circumstances, "it cannot be regarded as otherwise than within the reasonable bounds of possibility that the repeal of the Sherman Act might lead to a fall in the price of silver of even 6*d.* per ounce, or more, and that there might be no substantial re-action from the level thus reached." "It may," the Commissioners think, "be said, with practical certainty, that such a fall would reduce the exchange to about a shilling per rupee, and would involve the necessity of raising at least Rx. 6,612,000 more than would be required by the Government of India to effect, even at the rate of exchange of 1*s.* 3*d.* per rupee, a remittance of the amount drawn last year, namely, £16,530,000 sterling, while the payment of £19,370,000 sterling, which is the present estimate of the drawings for 1893-4, would, at 1*s.* 3*d.* per rupee, require Rx. 30,992,000, and at 1*s.* 0*d.* per rupee, Rx. 38,740,000, involving an increase of Rx. 7,748,000."

These are not the gloomy vaticinations of harassed and querulous Indian officials, but the deliberately

Indian Coinage and Paper Currency Bill.

expressed anticipations of such men as Mr. Leonard Courtney, so well known as Chairman of Committees of the British House of Commons, and a recent convert to bi-metallism; Sir Thomas Farrer, for many years the distinguished Secretary of the Board of Trade, and an eminent Political Economist and Free Trader; and Sir Reginald Welby, the Secretary of the Treasury, an official of exceptional experience, who had, moreover, previously been a Member of the Committee which in 1878 issued an unanimous report against another proposal founded upon the closing of the Indian Mints to the free coinage of silver.

With these prospects before them, the Committee find themselves face to face with that dilemma to which reference was made in the discussion upon the Financial Statement at Calcutta in March of the present year. It is recognised that the Government of India has to choose between a change in its currency arrangements and the imposition of increased taxation, which, if the figures which I have just cited are to be taken as a guide, might be of the most formidable and onerous character. The possibility of increasing our revenue by means of additional taxes is examined by the Committee in a series of paragraphs which I earnestly recommend to the attention of those who would have us leave the currency alone and restore equilibrium between income and expenditure by means of additions to the burdens of the country.

The Committee say that they are not in a position to determine whether the apprehensions which have been expressed to them, that increased taxation cannot be resorted to without grave mischief, are exaggerated or not, but they add this very significant observation:—“It is not easy to see how the burden of the added taxation which would be requisite to counterbalance the fall in exchange could be made to rest on those who might, with the most justice, be subjected to it, or how the

Indian Coinage and Paper Currency Bill.

added revenue could be provided, except in a manner opposed to sound principles of taxation."

I think then that I may sum up this part of the case by saying that it has now been established, almost beyond controversy, that to leave matters as they were meant, for the Government of India, hopeless financial confusion; for the commerce of India a constant and ruinous impediment; for the taxpayers of India, the prospect of heavy and unpopular burdens; for the consumers of commodities, a rise in the prices of the principal necessities of life; and for the country, as a whole, a fatal and stunting arrestation of its development.

My Hon'ble Financial Colleague has explained to the Council the precise nature of the proposals of the Committee—proposals which we have thought it our duty to accept, and wherein they differ from those which we had ourselves submitted to the Secretary of State.

The scheme of the Committee may be described as being, not so much an alternative to our own, as a modification of it. It is our scheme, with the addition of safeguards and precautions—safeguards and precautions which appear to us to be wisely conceived. The feature which both schemes have in common is the essential feature of both; both are based on the closing of the Mints to free coinage, with the object of eventually introducing a gold standard into India, upon terms as equitable as can be devised in the interests of all concerned, and with a minimum of disturbance to the business of the country.

I may say, too, that both schemes have for their main object the prevention of a further fall in the value of coined silver, rather than the enhancement of its value greatly beyond the present level. The difference between the Government of India and the Committee may be said to lie mainly in this, that the Committee have given more prominence than we had given to this aspect of the case. The keynote, so to speak, of the Report, is to be found in

Indian Coinage and Paper Currency Bill.

the opinion recorded in paragraph 135, to the effect that "to close the Mints for the purpose of raising the value of the rupee is open to much more serious objection than to do so for the purpose of preventing a further fall."

It is then mainly with the latter object that the Committee advocate putting a stop to the free coinage of silver. That is a view which will, I cannot help thinking, be generally accepted as a just and reasonable one. The step recommended by the Committee will not produce any violent disturbance of values. It will, to use the words of Messrs. Farrer and Welby, "not materially alter the present relations between debtor and creditor, but, on the contrary, prevent those relations being altered in the future by a further fall."

It has also this further advantage, that it provides an automatic means whereby it will be possible to prevent the closing of the Mints from leading to a sudden and violent disturbance in the rate of exchange. I refer of course to the provision that any person may hereafter bring gold to the Mints, and obtain for it rupees, at the rate of 1s. 4d. per rupee, and that gold may be tendered in payment of Government dues, at the same rate, which is equal to one sovereign for Rs. 15. I need scarcely explain that the effect of this will be that, should exchange show a tendency to rise in the open market beyond the rate originally fixed, should it, for example, rise to a ratio, giving, let us say, 1s. 4½d., as the equivalent of the rupee, or something less than Rs. 15 for the sovereign, it will at once become advantageous to bring gold to the Mint and to exchange it at the full rate of one sovereign for Rs. 15. In this manner, by a self-acting process, a rise beyond the level which has been provisionally indicated will be rendered impossible so long as that limit remains in force.

These precautions will, I hope, go far to allay the appre-

Indian Coinage and Paper Currency Bill,

hensions of those who mistrust the idea of any attempt by Government to increase artificially the value of its currency. Upon the other hand, the provisional ratio which the Committee has recommended, and which may, should circumstances hereafter require it, be raised, is sufficiently high to afford the Government of India immediate and substantial relief from its most pressing difficulties. Had the ratio been fixed lower in the first instance, I do not see how it would have been possible for us to avoid adding to the taxation of the Empire.

I would venture to ask those who take exception to the enhancement of the gold value of the rupee from the rates prevalent lately to 1s. 4d., upon the ground that such a fluctuation involves a disturbance of the markets, whether this small fluctuation is comparable in its importance with those to which we have had to submit during the last few years, and to which, if we were to leave matters alone, we should, no doubt, still be exposed.

I will only add, for the benefit of those who may not have leisure to study the Report, that there should be no mistake as to the following points:—

First, although we propose to introduce a gold standard, no attempt is to be made to get rid of the silver currency to which the people of this country have been so long accustomed. The experience of other countries, as to which the Report has much to say [and there is no part of it which is better worth reading], has, the Committee tell us, shown that it has been found possible, by the adoption of different systems, to maintain a gold standard and a substantial parity of exchange with the gold-using countries of the world without a gold circulation, without a large stock of gold currency, and even with a silver currency not legally convertible into gold. The Committee admit with the fairness which characterizes their Report, that in no one of the countries of which they have cited the example has silver been so largely and so

Indian Coinage and Paper Currency Bill.

exclusively used as in India, and there can be no doubt that, as Sir Thomas Farrer and Sir Reginald Welby have put it in their separate report, the effect of this measure will be to give us a token currency of unparalleled magnitude. The Committee sum up this part of the case by the very reasonable observation that, although the cases of Scandinavia, Holland, Canada, the Dutch East Indies, and the countries of the Latin Union, are not in all respects applicable as precedents to the case of India, the experience derived from the currencies of those countries is not without value as bearing on the questions which we have to consider.

In the second place, it will be observed that, for the present, no attempt will be made to fix the legal tender price for gold. In this respect, also, the proposals of Lord Herschell's Committee differ from ours, for reasons which have been explained by the Hon'ble Financial Member.

Thirdly, it will be seen that the ratio recommended by the Committee is fixed provisionally, and not permanently, and that the provisional ratio is well within the limits of recent variations.

I might say more, but I feel that I cannot add usefully to what has been already said, with an authority to which I cannot pretend, in the Report of the Committee. I will make one other observation only. It is true that our responsibility in this matter has been, as I said at first, to some extent diminished by the fact that the measure before the Council has not only our support, but that of Her Majesty's Government, and that of the Members of the Herschell Committee, but we do feel, nevertheless, very deeply the gravity of the step which we are about to take. For myself, I may say that I hold very strongly that all attempts to give a fictitious value by legislation to money, or commodities, are, upon principle, to be deprecated. The less Government has to do with such enterprises, the more we can trust to the ordinary influences of demand

Indian Coinage and Paper Currency Bill.

and supply, and to the open traffic of the markets, the better for all concerned. But a time may come when inaction is no longer possible, and when a Government would be unworthy the name of a Government if it were to stand aside and leave things to take care of themselves. We believe that such a time has come in India; we believe with Lord Herschell's Committee that a further fall in the gold value of silver is probably imminent, and that such a fall would have disastrous effects for this country if we were still to allow its Mints to remain open for the receipt and coinage of any quantity of a depreciated and discredited metal. We know that other countries have discarded that metal, and have prospered, and we see no reason why we should be precluded from following their example. We have borne long enough with a state of things which is becoming more intolerable with every year that passes, and which, in all human probability, would have become more intolerable still. We feel that, holding these views, we should be culpable if we did not attempt to place the finances of India on a more stable basis. We admit the immense difficulty of the problem and the uncertainties by which it is surrounded, and we offer this solution, not as one which is ideally perfect, but as the best which can be devised.

We are hopeful that it will afford relief, not to ourselves merely, or to our employes, but to the country as a whole. We are, however, far too well aware of the intricacy of the problem and of the risks attending such an experiment as that which we are about to try, to take this momentous step with a light heart. In a case of this kind, the most obvious economic and scientific laws do not always prevail. You may provide for all the known factors in your calculation, only to find that there are others which you have overlooked, or been unable to estimate. But, in spite of these misgivings, we earnestly hope that our proposals may be fruitful of good; that the commerce of India may

Indian Coinage and Paper Currency Bill.

be relieved from an impediment which has retarded its progress ; that the Government of India may be enabled to meet its obligations without adding to the burdens of the taxpayer ; and that capital will flow more freely into this country without the adventitious stimulus which we have hitherto been unable to refuse. We trust, finally, that, in process of time, sufficient reserves of gold may be accumulated to enable us to render our gold standard effective, and thereby to complete the great change towards which we are taking the first steps to-day.

Time only can show whether all these hopes will be fulfilled, or be disappointed. In the meanwhile I earnestly trust that even those who regard this measure with most suspicion, or reluctance, will give us credit for having had the courage of our opinions, and for having taken the only course which seemed to us likely to relieve this country of a burden which has, we believe, seriously affected its welfare in the past, and which would, unless we had intervened, have still more seriously paralyzed her energies and retarded her advance in the future.

DINNER AT THE UNITED SERVICE CLUB, SIMLA.

[On Saturday evening, the 23rd September, the Viceroy was 23rd Sept. 1893, entertained at dinner by the Members of the United Service Club at Simla. Mr. A. U. Fanshawe (Director-General of Post Offices in India), senior member of the club, presided, and proposed His Excellency's health in the following speech :—]

Your Excellency & Gentlemen,—I rise to propose the health of our guest, His Excellency Lord Lansdowne, to assure him of our pride and pleasure in receiving him here to-night, and of our unfeigned regret that the occasion should be one of farewell.

And, Gentlemen, I must claim your indulgence if I fail to express adequately what you would wish to be said on this occasion. The ready tongue is no part of the equipment of an Indian official. We have few, or no, opportunities of speaking in public, and my own efforts in this direction have been limited to an occasional speech at a cricket dinner.

In the ordinary course of events Lord Lansdowne will leave India at the beginning of next year, and he will then have completed, and more than completed, the period of five years for which he accepted office. He will, therefore, be the only Viceroy since Lord Lawrence who has served the full term of his Viceroyalty in this country. Before coming to India he was Governor General of Canada for nearly five years, so that for ten years, with one short interval, he has been content to remain absent from England while devoting his ability and energies to the service of his country. And, Gentlemen, it is well that we should realize what the Viceroyalty of India, with all its high prestige, means in the case of men like Lord Lansdowne; and this is the more necessary, because it seems to many of us that, in the stress of party politics at home, the importance and responsibilities of the position of the Viceroy of India are liable to be forgotten at times, or

Dinner at the United Service Club, Simla.

misunderstood. It means the giving up at home of political and social influence, which few would be prepared to surrender even temporarily, separation from family ties and old friendships, and the severance of the chosen interests and pursuits of a life which has everything to make it attractive. It means, in this country, to live laborious days with literally no respite from toil. It means, moreover,—and this, I think, has not received sufficient recognition,—it means in a very real sense an isolation which few of us could bear, for the Viceroy, from the circumstances of his position, must necessarily stand alone. It appears to us to be a matter of national concern that India should be able to command the services of men with wide political experience and statesmanlike views, and it is, therefore, incumbent on us to recognize the full extent of our obligation to Viceroys like Lord Dufferin and Lord Lansdowne.

This is not the time or place for a review of Lord Lansdowne's Indian career. It would not be fitting for me to attempt to characterize his financial, or frontier, policy, or to deal with the public events that have marked the term of his office as Viceroy. These are matters which will take their place in history. But, as members of the Services, we may fitly express our warm appreciation of the high sense of duty and the honourable ambition which have led him to undertake the onerous and responsible task of governing England's greatest dependency. We, who know how arduous and how unrelenting are the labours and cares of the Ruler of India, may offer him, as we do, our cordial congratulations on bringing his task to a close with honour and success. We, who are so deeply interested in the maintenance of the credit of the British Empire in this country, may assure him of our pride and satisfaction in knowing that he will resign his high trust to his successor with that credit undiminished and unimpaired.

Two years ago, Gentlemen, we had the honour of

Dinner at the United Service Club, Simla.

entertaining Lord Lansdowne as our guest in this Club, and he then told us that the burden of responsibility that devolves on a Viceroy would be insupportable but for the consciousness that he could depend on the loyal assistance of the Services, and on the feeling that their best energies were at the disposal of Government. It would be idle to deny that, during the two years that have elapsed since then, the loyal spirit of the Services has been subjected to a severe strain, in connection with the losses and domestic trials caused by the unprecedented fall in the rate of exchange. But I venture to assert that their self-restraint and devotion to duty has never been more signally displayed than during this period, and His Excellency, on receiving a Service deputation at the beginning of the year, of which I had the honour to be a member, expressed his full recognition of the dignity and patience with which admitted grievances had been borne. As to the measure of relief lately sanctioned, it is inevitable that different views should be held, but I may safely say that it has been generally recognized as being, on the whole, a substantial act of justice. And, speaking to-night to His Excellency as the head of the Government, I make bold to give him, on the part of the Services, the most emphatic assurance of their unaltered loyalty. Whatever anxieties and difficulties may have to be faced in the future, and they are inseparable from the task of governing this country, the Viceroy of India may rely fully and confidently on the support and co-operation of the Services, and on their readiness to expend themselves, as they always have done, in the discharge of their duty.

Gentlemen, I am sure that you will all agree with me that no Viceroy has had a better right to receive this assurance than Lord Lansdowne. It is recorded of Lord Dalhousie that he commanded the enthusiastic allegiance of the Services, but times have changed since then, and it is impossible that any Viceroy should now exercise the

Dinner at the United Service Club, Simla.

direct personal ascendancy which Lord Dalhousie did. The field of administration is too wide. Lord Lansdowne, however, has specially identified himself with the Services; has shown himself strong to support their just claims, and resolute to defend the good name of those who have been unfairly aspersed; and no one who has come into personal contact with him can have failed to be impressed by the individual interest he has taken in each man's work—in recognition, as it were, of the principle that, in our own degree, we are all working for one common end, the good government of this country. No Viceroy has more unaffectedly concerned himself in all that relates to the Services, has proved himself more ready to enter into their pursuits and occupations, and, let me add, to sympathise with their sorrows.

There is one other subject, Gentlemen, on which you will all wish me to touch, I mean the social success of Lord Lansdowne's Viceroyalty; and in speaking of this we must claim to be allowed to associate Lady Lansdowne's name with his. The social ceremonies becoming the position of the Head of the Government, and the constant hospitalities, on an almost Imperial scale, must constitute a heavy tax on the energy and health of a Viceroy, who, more than any of us, is a hard-worked official. But these duties have never been discharged with more unselfish consideration for others and more simple dignity than by Lord Lansdowne, whose personal popularity with all classes of society, as great as it is undoubted, has been entirely unsought. Hospitalities at Viceregal Lodge, and at Government House, Calcutta, have been rendered doubly attractive by the kindly courtesy which has made every guest assured of his being welcome, and by the charm of the winning presence and instinctive grace by which Lady Lansdowne has taken us all captive.

It only remains to express once more our great regret that this should be a farewell, and to assure Lord Lansdowne

Dinner at the United Service Club, Simla.

that in leaving India he will carry away with him our best wishes for his future happiness, and our confident hopes that the administrative experience and the knowledge of India gained in this country will lend weight hereafter to the Councils of the Empire. And we trust that it may be a source of legitimate gratification to him to know how fully he has secured the good-will and attachment of the Services with whom he has been so closely connected during his Viceroyalty (*applause*).

[The Viceroy replied as follows:—]

Gentlemen: Two years ago, on the occasion to which the President referred, the United Service Club entertained me in this room under the presidency of that most admirable official and most genial of companions, General Badcock, and I remember that we indulged in some pleasantries as to the possibility of my premature retirement, which had been confidently announced by certain writers in the Press.

This time I am afraid that the significance of your hospitality is unmistakable, and I am here to take leave of the Simla Club, and of the many good friends whom I count amongst its members.

At the same time I must not allow myself to forget that the period when I shall lay down the burden of office is still four months distant, so that we must, on the one hand, steer clear of anything like full blown obituary notices, and, on the other, of that unmuzzled exuberance and light-heartedness which characterise the utterances of Viceroys who have, so to speak, one foot already upon the gangway. I can, however, assure you that it is with a feeling of genuine sadness that I recognize the near approach of the time when I must bid farewell to the Members of this excellent Club, in whose society so large a part of my time during the last five years has been spent, and of whom many have shared with me the cares and burdens of official life.

The President spoke in feeling terms of the laborious

Dinner at the United Service Club, Simla.

days, with little or no respite, which fall to the lot of an Indian Viceroy, and I am certainly not prepared to controvert that statement. It would be the merest affectation to deny it. Even, as during the rains, one cloud rolls up after another towards these mountains, so do troubles and anxieties accumulate around the Government in this country; as fast as one cloud disperses, another takes its place. So it is, so it always has been, and so, I suppose, it ever will be. Those who are responsible for the government of the country must bear these things in a confident and manly spirit, recognizing that in this mighty Indian Empire, with its undefined frontiers, its restless neighbours beyond its limits, and its vast population, at one moment swayed by the gusts of Eastern fanaticism, and at another agitated by Western ideas of the most advanced type, it is almost too much to expect freedom from anxiety or easy times. We may, however, find some consolation in the thought that, in spite of all those drawbacks, that Empire is still a thing by itself in the history of the world, and forms perhaps the noblest existing monument of those which our race has been able to achieve.

But the hard work and the responsibility would be intolerable but for the loyal support and steady devotion of one's fellow-workers. I gladly avail myself of this opportunity in order to acknowledge my deep obligations to them, and when I say this I hope it will be understood that I am referring not only to the gentlemen sitting round this table, but to all those who in different parts of the country—many of them amid very trying circumstances, isolated from their friends, exposed to innumerable hardships and inconveniences—have borne their part in our common task.

Mr. Fanshawe has spoken appreciatively of the recent action of the Government of India in providing for the Services some compensation for the ruinous losses which they have sustained by the fall in exchange. I have spoken

Dinner at the United Service Club, Simla.

and written so often about this question that I have little to add on the present occasion. My position was one of very great difficulty. As the head of the public Services in India, I had, on the one hand, to consider their just claims, and to see that these claims were not overlooked; on the other hand, as the Queen's Representative, responsible for the well-being of the millions of her subjects, at whose expense these claims had to be met, it was necessary that I should endeavour to hold the balance as fairly as I could. We endeavoured to do so, and I think that credit has been given generally to us for this. I do not wish to claim for our attempt to deal with the question any higher praise than that it was, as Mr. Fanshawe has put it, a substantial act of justice. I am, of course, aware that it would have been agreeable to the Services to receive more liberal treatment, and that some members, particularly the senior members, have been disappointed. I could easily imagine their feelings, if I put myself in their place. All I can do is to ask them to put themselves in our place, and to consider what they would have done had they been so situated.

Into the broader aspects of this most difficult question I would rather not enter this evening, but perhaps I may be allowed to give one word of advice to those who have been watching this particular cloud, a cloud which has obscured our horizon for a long time past, and hoping to see it disperse. I wish I could say confidently that we had succeeded in dispersing it. This much, at any rate, I may allow myself to say, that although we have had disappointments, and although unforeseen difficulties have presented themselves, I see no cause for despair. Some of us were a little too sanguine at first. Do not let us commit the opposite mistake of being too despondent now. It is very easy to abuse the Secretary of State, or to pour contempt upon the Financial Member, when everything does not go as smoothly as we could wish. What we have to remember

Dinner at the United Service Club, Simla.

is the simple elementary fact that there is only one way in which we can give to a coin a value above that of the metal which it contains, and that is by rendering it artificially scarce. Now it was of course idle to suppose that the mere passing of an Act for the closing of the mints would at once lead to a scarcity of coined silver. The problem will work itself out in due time, and those who are best able to judge are by no means prepared to admit that the great experiment of June last has failed, or is destined to failure.

I believe it has been described as "the crime" committed on that date. It is a crime for which I am still unrepentant, a crime which, although no doubt it has occasioned a good deal of alarm, will, I still believe, prove to be a turning point in the commercial and fiscal history of this country.

Some of our critics are, I think, apt to lose sight of the position with which we were confronted at the beginning of the year. We found that our standard was a metal which owing to circumstances entirely beyond our control, was contracting in value, and holding in the markets of the world a position which, with every month that passed, was becoming more and more precarious. In spite of the demonetization of silver by the great European Powers, we found that the quantity of that metal produced was constantly increasing. Twenty years ago, when silver was worth nearly 5/- per ounce, the produce of the world did not exceed 63 millions of ounces. Last year, when the price of silver had fallen to less than 38*d* per ounce, the total amount of silver produced had risen to 152 millions of ounces. Now, of this enormous quantity of silver, between one-fourth and one-fifth found its way to this country, while one-third, or 54 millions of ounces, was annually absorbed by the United States of America. It was, however, a matter of common notoriety that the silver legislation of the United States was likely to be repealed

Dinner at the United Service Club, Simla.

or modified, and that a large part at all events of the silver which the States had been in the habit of consuming would not improbably be added to the great mass of the metal already dumped upon our shores.

What then was our duty under these circumstances as men of business? I say that, as long as there was a chance that the Brussels Conference would bring about some concerted action for the rehabilitation of silver, we were excusable if we waited upon events; but when it became clear that the Conference would be abortive, and that even our own Government was not prepared to co-operate effectually in rehabilitating the white metal, one course, and one course only, was open to us, the course which we adopted when we perpetrated "the crime" of June 26th.

Since then we have, no doubt, had a disturbance of values and a temporary dislocation of our business with silver-using countries, but are the evils which have befallen us comparable with those which might have happened if we had sat still and waited for the United States to repeal the Sherman Act, and for the rate to fall to a shilling?

I spoke just now of the clouds which sometimes obscure the political horizon in this country.

There is one cloud which has, for the past few years, loomed upon our horizon, and which, I am glad to say, shows some signs of rolling by. A firm alliance with the Ruler of Afghanistan, and a determination to respect, and as far as possible to maintain, the independence of his country, have been articles of faith with the Government of India ever since the accession of the present Amir, and it has been my earnest desire to cultivate intimate relations with His Highness, and to do all in my power to convince him of our good-will towards him, and of our intention to fulfil scrupulously our treaty engagements to him. Various circumstances, for which neither His Highness, nor I, have been entirely responsible, have thrown difficulties in the way of such a *rapprochement* as I have indicated. When

Dinner at the United Service Club, Simla.

I arrived in India in 1888, a Kabul Mission had just been countermanded. His Highness was occupied in dealing with a dangerous rebellion, which at the time seemed to threaten the integrity of his possessions. Its suppression required his presence on the remote frontiers of Afghan Turkestan, and during the first two years of my Viceroyalty, he was absent from Kabul and entirely engrossed with the serious task which he had taken in hand. After his return to his capital, the state of his health, and other complications in the mountainous region known as the Hazara country, prevented His Highness from turning his attention to several outstanding questions, in which he, as well as the Government of India, were concerned, and it was owing to these causes that His Highness asked to be excused from receiving the Mission of Lord Roberts, which was to have proceeded to Jellalabad twelve months ago. His Highness has now been successful in restoring order within his dominions, and I am glad to say that the accounts which we receive of his health are satisfactory. Advantage has accordingly been taken of this opportunity in order to send the friendly Mission which is at this moment on its way to Kabul. I do not wish to be oversanguine as to the results of that Mission. Frontier questions are always difficult to dispose of, there is generally a good deal to be said on both sides, and each side is naturally tenacious of what it believes to be its own rights, but these difficulties are more than half surmounted, when each party approaches the discussion in a moderate and conciliatory spirit. It is in this spirit that our Envoy has been instructed to deal with the issues which he will shortly discuss with His Highness. He will attempt not to drive a hard bargain, but to effect an amicable settlement as between two neighbours whose interests are in many respects identical. I am bound to add that nothing could be more friendly than the disposition which His Highness on his side has lately evinced in dealing with several

Dinner at the United Service Club, Simla.

points which have arisen in connection with these frontier questions, nor could anything be more satisfactory than His Highness' attitude with regard to the Mission. With a Ruler as shrewd and sagacious as the Amir on the one side, and an Envoy as sincere and straightforward as Sir Mortimer Durand on the other, there is, I think, every reason to believe that a solution creditable and advantageous to both sides should not be beyond our reach. I will venture to say that, even if we are not able to dispose at once of the whole of the questions at issue between the two Governments, a foundation will have been laid for closer and more confidential relations than those which have existed between them during the last few years.

And now, Gentlemen, it remains for me to thank you for the manner in which you have received the President's graceful reference to the part which Lady Lansdowne and I have taken in social, as distinguished from political and official, matters. Your kindness amply compensates us for any pains which we may have taken in this direction, and I listened with real pleasure to the words in which Mr. Fanshawe dwelt upon the manner in which I have been assisted by her who, during the last ten years of my life, has done so much to smooth my path. We shall, indeed, carry away with us many pleasant recollections of our Indian life. As for me, I may, perhaps, in years to come remember that the Simla rains were long and trying, that Simla work was hard and monotonous, but I shall remember also that Simla friendships were warm and cordial, and that, during my five years of Indian life, I encountered at the hands of my Simla neighbours nothing but that kindness and courtesy of which you have given me a conspicuous example this evening. (*Applause*).

FAREWELL BALL TO THE VICEROY AND
LADY LANSDOWNE, SIMLA,

10th Oct. 1893.

[The residents of Simla entertained Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne at a farewell Ball at the Town Hall, Simla, on Tuesday evening, the 10th October 1893. Every arrangement that could serve to make the occasion a memorable one had been carefully thought out by the Executive Committee, representing Simla Society as a body; and the result was most gratifying. The road from Viceregal Lodge to the Town Hall was illuminated, and a guard-of-honour, furnished by the Gordon Highlanders, from Jutogh, was drawn up on the ridge. Their Excellencies, on arrival were received with a royal salute, the band playing the National Anthem; and on passing into the Town Hall they were met by the members of the Committee, including the Lieutenant-Governor, the Commander-in-Chief, and all the Members of Council. A procession was formed and proceeded up the ball-room to the dais, the National Anthem being again played.]

After supper, which was served at midnight, Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick rose, amid applause, and proposed the health of the guests of the evening. His Honour, in the course of a long speech, said that of the many Viceroys and their wives whom he had seen during his service, none left India's shores leaving warmer friends, or more sincerely regretted, than Lord and Lady Lansdowne. He specially alluded to the Viceroy's invariable courtesy and kindness to all classes, both Europeans and Natives, as well as to the general recognition His Excellency had accorded to the work done by officers of both the Civil and Military Services. His mention of the profuse hospitalities of Government House, and of the manner in which Lady Lansdowne had always made her guests feel thoroughly at home, was the signal for continued applause. The speaker concluded an able speech by wishing God-speed to the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne; after which their healths were drunk with hearty cheers.

The Viceroy, on rising to reply, received a very warm welcome. His Excellency spoke as follows:—]

Your Honour, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The friendly words which His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has just addressed to you, and the unmistakable signs of approval with which you received them, have, I can assure you, greatly touched your guests. Your reception of this toast has, if possible, added to the completeness of the brilliant entertainment with which you

Farewell Ball to the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne, Simla.

have honoured us, and I cannot thank you sufficiently for your kindness to Lady Lansdowne and myself.

I am not using the language of affectation when I say that I am at a loss for words in which to express our gratitude. Although I cannot plead that I am entirely unaccustomed to making speeches, and particularly to making after dinner speeches, I can say conscientiously that, if I am to carry my thoughts back to the time when I last made an after supper speech, I have to go back to a past which is very remote indeed. (*Laughter and applause.*) I have, however, a pretty clear idea as to two of the conditions which an after supper speech ought to fulfil. It should, in the first place, be as short, and in the second, as cheerful as possible. Now, I will promise that my observations shall be comprised within the narrowest limits if you will promise not to think me wanting in appreciation of your kindness, because I acknowledge it in a few scanty sentences. The other condition is, however, less easy to comply with. In spite of the brightness and brilliancy of this entertainment, we cannot dismiss from our minds the thought that this ball is a farewell ball, and that you have bidden us here this evening, in order, as His Honour has put it, to bid us God-speed when we turn our backs upon this station.

We have now completed nearly five years in India, and a very considerable part of them have been spent in Simla. Perhaps it would be better that I should not state the exact number of months which we have spent here, or I shall find myself giving an opening to those stern critics who are so fond of expatiating upon the evils of the Simla exodus, and who fancy that, from April to October, our time is chiefly occupied in one continuous round of dances, picnics, and gymkhanas. (*Laughter and applause.*) But we have certainly spent a larger number of months here than at any other place in India, and so it has come to pass that we have, as it were, taken root amongst you, and laid the foundations of not a few friendships, which I cannot bring

Farewell Ball to the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne, Simla.

myself to believe will be entirely interrupted when the time comes for us to set our faces homewards.

The Lieutenant-Governor spoke very gracefully and indulgently, both of the official, and of the social side of our life, and of my official relations with himself and others with whom I have had to transact business. As for this, all that I will say is that, although the word "official" often suggests much that is dry and disagreeable, I have always believed that no friendships were truer than those uniting men who are occupied in the common service of their country, and who are endeavouring honestly and manfully to advance its interests. (*Applause.*)

But, Ladies and Gentlemen, the existence of a Viceroy would be intolerable if it began and ended with that interminable stream of files which flows so steadily towards Government House,—a stream which would be absolutely overwhelming but for the breakwater which mercifully exists in the shape of the long-suffering and laborious Private Secretary, who sits near me at this table. (*Applause.*)

I am, therefore, glad that His Honour has referred to the more congenial and social aspects of our Simla life. As to these, I will make three observations. The first is this, that you, Ladies and Gentlemen, have made this part of our task easy and delightful for us by the manner in which you have invariably met us half-way and given us credit for a desire to do our best to please you. In the next place, speaking for myself, I will say that my task as a host has been made light for me owing to the fact that I have commanded the assistance of a hostess who has contrived to win for herself, not only the good opinion, but I think I may say the affection of those with whom she has been brought in contact. (*Loud and continued applause.*) If I may speak of ourselves as partners in a Firm, I may say, without exaggeration, that I have had the good luck to be associated with a partner who has attracted a very

Farewell Ball to the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne, Simla.

valuable good-will towards the business in which we have been engaged. (*Applause.*)

The third observation that I will make is that, both Lady Lansdowne and I, owe a great deal to the assistance of our Staff, which has always worked cheerfully and thoughtfully for us, and spared no pains to secure the success of any efforts which we have made. (*Applause.*)

But, Ladies and Gentlemen, I must not forget my promise to be as short as possible. It remains for me to thank you once more for your kindness and hospitality, and to assure you that we shall not forget it even when we have left this place and returned to the home and the friends towards which our thoughts have often turned wistfully during the last ten years. Many of you have no doubt, seen the beautiful card on which we were invited to meet you here this evening. It is an admirable work of art, illustrated by the brush of a well-known and gallant artist. The central position is occupied by a picture of the building in which we are gathered this evening. Above this is an excellent representation of our beautiful residence—a monument of the architectural taste and skill of Messrs. Irving and Hebbert, and I think I ought also to add, of my predecessor, Lord Dufferin. Below this is an excellent picture of our old home in England. Ladies and Gentlemen, I can assure you that just as there is room upon the card for both of these pictures, so there will be room in our hearts both for the love of our English home and our English friends, and for many kindly and grateful associations which, in years to come, will carry our thoughts back to this station, and to those whose friendship we had the good fortune to win while we lived within it. (*Prolonged applause.*)

FAREWELL ADDRESS AT SIMLA.

[The Viceroy and the Marchioness of Lansdowne left Simla on the morning of the 7th November 1893 on their autumn tour. A short time before their departure, the members of the Municipal Corporation of Simla, headed by Colonel Robertson, the President, waited upon the Viceroy, at Viceregal Lodge, and presented His Excellency with a farewell address which was as follows :—

We, the Municipal Committee of Simla, as representing the citizens of this Municipality, having in view the near termination of Your Excellency's term of office as Viceroy, venture to present a valedictory address to Your Excellency on your departure from the summer capital of India.

2. In 1889 this Municipality tendered Your Excellency its respectful congratulations on your assumption of the high office of Viceroy and Governor General of India, and cordially welcomed Your Lordship on your arrival at Simla. We also expressed the earnest hope that Your Excellency's Government would exhibit that interest in the welfare of this station that had hitherto proved so valuable an aid to its advancement.

3. Our expectations have not been disappointed. To Your Excellency's kindly assistance the public of Simla owe, in a great measure, the inestimable blessing of an adequate water-supply, while the health, comfort, and convenience of the community have largely benefited by the completion of the sanitary works sanctioned by Your Excellency's Government.

Your Excellency has always identified yourself with every measure tending to promote the happiness of the community and the interests of the town, and you have also been a warm supporter of local self-Government, as it should be.

4. We do not presume to review Your Excellency's administration in India, but we may be permitted to add our humble tribute of acknowledgment to what is generally recognised, namely, that the policy of Your Excellency's Government has met with very cordial acceptance both in this country, and at home, and that you have always administered the affairs of this great Empire with wisdom, sympathy, and impartiality in the presence of the diverse religions and nationalities of which it is composed.

5. It also seems fitting that we should briefly acknowledge the active interest which Her Excellency Lady Lansdowne has taken in the National Association for providing medical aid to the women of

Farewell Address at Simla.

India, a great and important movement initiated by the Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava.

The kindly sympathy which Lady Lansdowne has always evinced towards our local charities and institutions, and her thoughtful desire to promote the happiness of all classes of the community, will ensure Her Excellency a lasting remembrance in Simla.

6. In conclusion, we beg to bid Your Excellency a regretful farewell, and to assure you that we shall ever cherish a grateful memory of your presence in Simla.

We fervently pray that the Almighty may grant Your Excellency every happiness and prosperity, and that your great experience and wisdom may long be available to our beloved Queen-Empress and the service of our country.

The Viceroy replied in the following terms :—]

Colonel Robertson and Gentlemen,—Nearly five years ago the Municipal Committee of Simla was good enough to receive me on my first arrival in this Station, and I have an agreeable recollection of the welcome which was then offered me.

You have now come to bid me farewell, and you have done so in terms not less friendly and generous than those of which you made use in 1889.

Since then I have spent a great part of my time under the wing of the Simla Municipality, and I am glad to think that our relations, both private and official, have been of the most amicable character. I gladly acknowledge, as a rate-payer, and as one subject to the benign rule of the Municipality, the courtesy with which it has invariably treated me. I have no doubt that it is very good for a Viceroy that he should know that, here at all events, there exists a power, superior to his own, which can, if necessary, make things extremely unpleasant for him, if he, or those about him, do not comply with Municipal Rules.

But, Gentlemen, I can assure you that it was not merely from interested motives that I have, as the head of the Government of India, endeavoured to facilitate your work as guardians of the interests of the Station. I look back with satisfaction to my connection with important measures

Farewell Address at Simla.

of Municipal reform, under which three years ago the Municipal Committee was reconstituted upon a basis well adapted to the requirements of the place, and to the steps taken at the same time to improve the financial position of the Municipality. Considering the extent to which the Government of India and its officers are concerned in the well-being of the Station, it was only reasonable that we should bear our share of the expenditure necessary to render it healthy and habitable. The grants then made from Imperial and Provincial funds, and the relief afforded by the consolidation of your Municipal loans, have, I hope, placed the Municipality in a thoroughly solvent condition.

Of the improvements which have recently been carried out, none has more promoted the comfort and convenience of the Simla community than the increased water-supply which you were able to procure last year. I can well remember that, when I first came here, it used to distress me greatly to see the long lines of servants and water-carriers waiting at the stand-pipes for the scanty and insufficient dole of water with which they then had to content themselves during the dry season. It was little less than a scandal that, in the summer quarters of the Government of India, the population should, for three months of the year, be put on half rations of water. A water-famine in Simla will, I hope, now be a thing of the past.

I may also compliment you on the success which has attended your efforts to improve the sanitation of the Station, and I trust that, now that an ample water-supply has been secured, and the drainage system of the Station completed, you will find yourselves, although without adding to the burdens of the rate-payers, able to turn your attention to other valuable local improvements.

The problem of controlling and regulating the domestic habits of the large floating population which gathers here during the summer months, is one which cannot be solved except by a mixture of tact and firmness, which is not to be

Farewell Address at Simla.

found in every Municipal body. I hope I may be allowed to congratulate Colonel Robertson upon the general acceptance with which his efforts have met—efforts which have been most ably seconded by our friend, Mr. Goad, who has been so long, and so honourably, connected with the affairs of this Station.

Gentlemen, it is most agreeable to me to learn from your address that you are able to express a favourable opinion of the manner in which the public business of this country has been conducted since I have been connected with it. I am, above all, pleased to find that you give me credit for having endeavoured to carry on its government "with sympathy and impartiality in the presence of the diverse religions and nationalities of which this great Empire is composed." No more honourable tribute could be paid to an Indian Statesman, and I can assure you that, whether I have deserved it at your hands or not, it has been my sincere desire to act in accordance with those righteous and time-honoured principles.

I must not forget to thank you for your courteous reference to Lady Lansdowne, and to the interest which she has taken in the charities and institutions of Simla. She desires me to tell you that it has been a sincere pleasure to her to be, from time to time, associated with you in such useful works, and particularly in the promotion of the important movement to which you have specially referred in your address.

Gentlemen, it remains for me, in Lady Lansdowne's name, and for myself, to bid you farewell, and to thank you once more for your kindness to us. We shall always gratefully remember the courtesy and consideration which we have never failed to encounter at the hands of the citizens of this Municipality, in whose name you have so gracefully addressed me to-day.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL BOARD OF AGRA.

10th Nov. 1893.

[On Friday afternoon, the 10th November 1893, the Viceroy was presented with an address by the Municipal Board of Agra at the Water Works, in the presence of a large number of European and Native residents. In welcoming Their Excellencies the Board expressed their gratitude for the exceptionally liberal treatment which they had received from Government. They referred to the general improvement which had taken place, since His Excellency's last visit to Agra, in education, medical aid to the people, and commerce. The agency for medical aid to women was second to none in the Provinces, and the Board expressed their deep gratitude to Lady Lansdowne for her benevolent and indefatigable exertions towards securing this progress. Trade was also flourishing; and a splendid system of water-works had been introduced during Lord Lansdowne's tenure of office, His Excellency having opened the works in 1890. The address went on to state that 800,000 gallons of water are supplied daily to the town, giving about 8 gallons per head of the population. A greatly improved system of sanitation had tended to increased healthiness and vitality among the people, though Government support in this direction was still essential. The address concluded by pointing out that notwithstanding the unquestionable existence of disturbing elements in its population, Agra had been conspicuously free from the sectarian dissensions which had disturbed other parts of the Provinces during late years. The recent Dasehra festival, for instance was celebrated with more than usual display, but with perfect unanimity by all parties.

His Excellency the Viceroy replied in the following terms :—]

Gentlemen,—I thank you heartily for the welcome which you have given me on the occasion of my second visit to this famous city. I could not leave India without giving myself the pleasure of once more contemplating its beauties, the marvels of which appeal to me not less forcibly, now that I see them for the second time and after many travels in this country.

But I rejoice to think that the Imperial city is not content to rest its reputation on these glorious relics of the past, and that your people are successfully turning their attention to commercial pursuits, to the education of

Address from the Municipal Board of Agra.

their children, and to measures for improving the sanitary conditions under which the population lives.

You have referred more especially to the magnificent system of water-supply which has been introduced since I came here in 1890. I remember with satisfaction that you were good enough in that year to invite me to open the new works. They have since been in successful operation and are, I am glad to think, appreciated as they deserve by your citizens.

Their construction has imposed a very heavy burden on the rate-payers of the city, and the scheme will no doubt need still further development before you can regard it as complete.

Nothing would be more agreeable to me than to tell you that the Government of India would come to your assistance, but common prudence forbids me to hold out such hopes. In the first place, I am bound to point out to you that the practice of assisting purely local enterprises from Imperial funds would be an extremely dangerous one. If the Government of India once commenced it, I do not quite know where we should stop. The result would, I am afraid, in the end, be that we should have to take a great deal more money out of the pockets of the tax-payers of India in order to give it back to them, or to the more favoured portion of them, in the shape of local subventions and subsidies. In the next place, I am afraid, I must confess to you that, to the best of my belief, the state of our finances during the next year or two will be such as to make it necessary for the Finance Minister to resist strenuously any attempts to introduce new and unforeseen items of expenditure; and, in the third place, I must remind you that a Viceroy, who is, as I am, on the eve of his departure, will be wise if he avoids making promises which he must obviously himself be unable to fulfil.

But, Gentlemen, whether your prayer, when it comes to be made, falls upon deaf or willing ears, I am convinced

Address from the Municipal Board of Agra.

that these works will so greatly add to the comfort and convenience of your citizens, and to the health of the city, that you will never regret the sacrifices which they may involve.

And I feel bound to express my admiration for the manner in which throughout these Provinces, no doubt in great measure owing to the personal influence of Sir Auckland Colvin, but also owing to the public spirit of the Municipalities, these great sanitary improvements have been carried out in most of the principal cities. I may mention, as illustrating the practical value of such works, that the present year will show the lowest death-rate on record for these Provinces. In the City of Agra there has been, I am glad to hear, a marked immunity from epidemic disease. Only one death from cholera, and one from small-pox, have been reported during the year, and the mortality from causes indicating insanitary conditions has been reduced greatly below the decennial average, while the mortality from all causes will probably fall below 22 per 1,000 of the population—the lowest rate yet recorded and one which compares most favourably with the decennial average of 35·85 of the last ten years.

You have, I think, a right to point to these remarkable results, as showing that the efforts which you have made have not been made in vain.

And now, Gentlemen, you must allow me to notice in a few words that passage in your address in which you have referred, with pardonable pride, to the fact that your city has, notwithstanding the existence of disturbing elements in its population, been conspicuously free from those sectarian dissensions which have gained an unenviable notoriety for other places within these Provinces, and that the great Dasehra festival has lately passed off “with perfect unanimity among all branches of the community, under the patronage of the district authorities.”

That is a subject which has been uppermost in all our

Address from the Municipal Board of Agra.

thoughts during the last few months, and nothing has given me more pain than the increased bitterness of feeling lately manifested between the two great religious denominations, and the deplorable conflicts which have arisen between them—conflicts which have occasioned suffering, loss of life, and destruction of property, and brought discredit upon the people of the country.

I rejoice to think that the City of Agra has been free from this disgrace, and I am glad to congratulate the representatives of the Municipality upon the good conduct of their fellow-citizens.

It is not my intention, upon an occasion of this kind, to attempt to distribute the blame amongst those who have been concerned in these occurrences. There is a familiar English proverb, which says that it takes two to make a quarrel, and it is fair to suppose, and, indeed, all the evidence points to this conclusion, that it is, in some cases, the Mahomedans, and, in others, the Hindus, who have been to blame for the conflicts which have taken place in different parts of the Empire. It would, indeed, probably be difficult to find a case in which the fault was entirely on one side. But, on whichever side it may be proved to lie, we shall not be afraid of bringing the offenders to account, because of the accusations of partiality which we may thereby draw down upon ourselves.

Let me tell you in the plainest language that the Government of India has no intention of permitting these exhibitions of lawlessness to be renewed. Our policy is one of strict neutrality and toleration, but that toleration does not extend to disorder and crime, and, whoever is at the head of affairs in India, depend upon it that disorder and crime will be put down with a strong and fearless hand.

The Government of India is under a two-fold obligation. We owe it to the whole community, British and Indian, to secure the public safety, and to protect the persons and property of the Queen's subjects from injury and interference.

Address from the Municipal Board of Agra.

We are also bound to secure to both the great religious denominations freedom from molestation or persecution in the exercise of their religious observances. The law secures to the Mahomedans the right of following the ritual which has been customary for them and for their forefathers; while it secures to the Hindus protection from outrage and insult, and, for this reason, forbids the slaughter of cattle with unnecessary publicity, or in such a manner as to occasion wanton and malicious annoyance to their feelings. Let both sides understand clearly that no lawless or aggressive conduct, on their part, will induce us to depart by an inch from this just and honourable policy. Do not let it be supposed that the slaughter of kine for the purpose of sacrifice, or for food, will ever be put a stop to: we shall protect the religions of both sides alike, and we shall punish, according to the law, any act which wantonly outrages the religious feelings of any section of the community. Let it also be clearly understood that we shall not permit any disturbance of the peace, and that, wherever violence is exhibited, we shall not be afraid to put it down by force.

In acting upon these lines we shall merely give effect to the principles, which have, again and again, been affirmed, by the Government of the Queen, and which have received the sanction of successive Acts of the Legislature.

Let it not be forgotten that, in the Queen's Proclamation of 1858, which the people of this country, with good reason, regard as the great charter of their civil and religious liberties, it is laid down that, throughout the Indian Empire, none are to be in anywise favoured, or molested, or disquieted by reason of their religious faith or observances, but that all shall enjoy alike the equal and impartial protection of the law. Let it not be forgotten that practical effect is given to these great principles in the provisions of our Codes, which render liable to severe punishment, without distinction of creed, those who desecrate

Address from the Municipal Board of Agra.

places of worship, disturb religious assemblies, or who by their words or acts, deliberately wound the religious feelings of their neighbours.

Do not let it be imagined that, under the pressure of an agitation like that which has lately taken place, we are going, in the face of these sanctions, to take away from one side, or the other, the rights which they possess under the law, or that we shall allow one creed to persecute, or to terrorise another, merely because it happens to be numerically the strongest in a particular part of the country. Let those who form the majority in any town or district remember that if their co-religionists are the stronger party in one place, there are other places in which they are few, and their opponents numerous, and that both sides are interested in securing the protection of minorities.

There is one other observation which I should like to make. When I tell you that the policy of the Government of India is one of neutrality and toleration, I entreat you not to believe that our attitude towards these questions is one of mere indifference. That is not by any means the case. We know well that the religious feelings of the people of this country are strong and deep-seated. We recognise the fact that, in the eyes of a majority of the inhabitants of this country, the cow is a sacred animal, regarded with a feeling of affection and veneration, the intensity of which we can scarcely fathom. We know that they worship the animal, not only as the emblem and embodiment of their faith, but on account of the place which it occupies in the economical system of India. We have never sought to dwell upon what may seem to us the incongruities and inconsistencies of their creed. We accept the fact that it is the creed of more than 200 millions of the Queen's Indian subjects, and we are determined that nothing shall be done to outrage it gratuitously. We know also how deep is that faith, which carries the Mahomedan pilgrims from the remotest parts of this Continent to Mecca, which leads them to

Address from the Municipal Board of Agra.

face, sufferings, privation, and disease, in order to fulfil a religious obligation, and which causes the Mahomedans to adhere to the ritual of their religion, even at the risk of life and limb. I can well understand that the religious feelings of men, whose convictions are so strong, should at times be difficult to control; but it is the business of the Government of India to see that these feelings are not wantonly outraged, and you may depend upon it that this duty will not be neglected. The law is clear: it is our duty to enforce the law; it is yours to obey it.

I appeal then earnestly to those gentlemen whose position in the Indian community enables them to exercise influence over their neighbours, and I would implore them to impress upon those who are less well informed than themselves the folly and the disastrous consequences of such acts as those which have lately taken place in these Provinces and elsewhere. I have noticed with satisfaction symptoms which show that the leaders of both the Hindu and Mussulman communities are taking a sensible view of the situation, and are endeavouring to quell the excitement which has arisen.

I appeal, in particular, to the Editors and Proprietors of newspapers, whether British or Vernacular, whether written for Hindu, or Mahomedan, or English readers, to show a calm and temperate spirit, both in their comments upon these disputes, and in their published descriptions of the facts, or what are supposed to be the facts, which have occurred. Let the Press remember that a great power for good, as well as a great power for evil, is in its hands, and that it enjoys in this country a measure of freedom which, beyond all question, would be denied to it under any Government other than that of the Queen. It is not too much to ask of it that it will use with prudence and moderation the privileges which have been accorded to it, and that it will avail itself of them, not for the purpose of disseminating incendiary matter among an ignorant and

Address from the Municipal Board of Agra.

inflammable population, but for that of counselling forbearance, of exposing exaggeration and falsehood, and of bringing about the cessation of strife and the renewal of kindly feelings where these have been interrupted.

Those who follow this wise course, will certainly deserve well of the Government of India, which desires, above all things, that this country should enjoy that peace without which prosperity is unattainable. I can find no words strong enough to denounce the wickedness of those who have told you that the Government of India encourages these quarrels, in order to sow dissensions between class and class; a miserable falsehood which is not believed by those who circulate it, and which has, I am convinced, found little credence in this country.

I would therefore say to the Mahomedans—"Do you, in the exercise of your religious duties, take thought for the susceptibilities of your Hindu fellow-countrymen; perform your religious rites, but perform them reverently, unobtrusively, and in such a manner as not to wound the feelings of your Hindu neighbours": while to the Hindus I would say—"By all means organise your Societies for protecting cattle from ill-treatment, spare no pains to secure that they shall be treated humanely and protected against the horrors of a lingering death when they are old and worn out; but, on the other hand, do not allow your *Sabhas* to be converted into Associations for organising the intimidation of your neighbours, and for spreading the poison of class hatred throughout your peaceful and industrious villages." And to both Hindus and Mahomedans I would say—"If you will bring to our notice any partiality on the part of our officials, or any deliberate violation of our laws and regulations, you may depend upon the fairness of our Courts, and upon the support of the Executive Government."

Gentlemen, it remains for me only to thank you for the friendly words in which you have taken leave of us, and

Address of Welcome at Rangoon.

to assure you that both Lady Lansdowne, to whom you have so courteously referred in your address, and I, reciprocate your good wishes, and earnestly trust that time may have in store for the Imperial city of Agra nothing but success and prosperity.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME AT RANGOON.

18th Nov. 1893. [Leaving Agra by special train on the night of the 12th November, the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne, with His Excellency's staff, passed through Calcutta on the 14th, and embarked on board the Royal Indian Marine Steamer *Warren Hastings* at Diamond Harbour in the evening. Their Excellencies were here joined by the Honourable Lieutenant-General H. Brackenbury, Military Member of Council, and Captain John Hext, R.N., Director, Royal Indian Marine, who accompanied them throughout their tour in Burma. The *Warren Hastings* left Diamond Harbour on the morning of the 15th November, and, after three days' voyage, arrived in the Rangoon River, where Mr. Fryer, the Chief Commissioner of Burma, met His Excellency. The Viceroy landed at 8 A.M. on the 18th at Phayre Street Wharf, where His Excellency was received officially, all the principal civil and military officers of Rangoon being present. The wharf and its surroundings were very elaborately decorated, and in a pandal erected close to the landing, where a large number of the public were assembled, the Viceroy received an address of welcome presented on behalf of the people of Rangoon. The address, which was enclosed in a casket of silver of beautiful Burmese workmanship, was read by Major Temple, President of the Municipality and of the Reception Committee. Having assured Their Excellencies of a hearty welcome, and of the loyalty of the many nationalities of Rangoon, the address proceeded: "When Your Excellency's predecessor, Lord Dufferin, came amongst us, we assured him of our confidence in the ability of the Government of India to restore order and prosperity in Upper Burma. During the time of Your Excellency's visit you will find ample evidence that the hopes we expressed nearly eight years ago have been more than fulfilled, to the great benefit, not only of the people of Upper Burma, but also of their neighbours in this part of the Province—a benefit in which we, who dwell in this, the most rising of provincial capitals in the

Address of Welcome at Rangoon.

Indian Empire, have fully shared. This is not a fitting occasion for dilating upon our various wants and desires, especially as Your Excellency has graciously made known to us your wish to listen to any representations that may be brought forward at a convenient opportunity. We, therefore, repeat our assurances of welcome, which we have endeavoured so to order as to enable Your Excellencies to look back hereafter upon your visit to Burma as a time of pleasant memories."

His Excellency in reply spoke as follows:—]

Major Temple and Gentlemen,—I thank you extremely for the warm and hospitable words in which you have welcomed me to Rangoon, and I can assure you that it is a source of the greatest satisfaction to me to find myself standing on Burmese soil.

I ought, I think, to apologise to you for having delayed my visit to Burma until the very eve of my departure from India. You are, however, I think, aware that I have always been sincerely desirous of making the acquaintance of this Province, and that, although my Burma tour has been relegated to the last weeks of my term of office in India, it has been my misfortune, not my fault. Two years ago I had intended to come here, but the circumstances of the moment were not propitious, and the then Chief Commissioner advised me to postpone my visit.

You will remember that there were, at that time, threatenings of a scarcity in many parts of the Province. Men's minds were full of anxiety, and we felt that the moment was scarcely one in which it was fair to inflict upon the people the trouble and distractions which are almost inseparable from a Viceregal reception.

Having heard something of the scale upon which preparations have been made for our visit, I feel that my reluctance to come here in 1891 was well justified.

At present I rejoice to say that no apprehensions of this kind need mar our enjoyment. The country is prosperous, its commerce is increasing with rapid strides, and, as you remind me, order has been established within the

Durbar at Rangoon.

borders of the Province, while we are making satisfactory progress with the pacification of the lawless and little-known tracts which adjoin its confines.

Gentlemen, I will follow your example and avoid, upon this occasion, even touching upon any questions of business or controversial topics. I am aware that there are several matters in which different classes of the community are interested, and in regard to which they will probably wish to confer with me during my stay. I will reserve what I have to say upon these matters for other and more suitable opportunities. In the meanwhile I will content myself with expressing, in Lady Lansdowne's name and my own, my hearty gratitude for the manner in which you have received us.

I regard your welcome as indicating above all else that, although this Province is geographically separated from the rest of India, the "many nationalities" to whom you refer in your address, of which its peoples are composed, are at one with the rest of their fellow subjects in their loyalty to our common Sovereign, and in the pride which they take in the glorious empire of which she is the chief.

[Their Excellencies then witnessed a *pwè*, or Burmese dance, by about 50 girls, and afterwards drove to Government House, under a succession of magnificent arches erected by the various nationalities in Rangoon. The streets were thronged with people, and profusely decorated for the greater part of the route.]

DURBAR AT RANGOON.

20th Nov. 1893. [At 4 P.M. on Monday, the 20th November, the Viceroy held a Durbar in the large hall of the new public buildings, Rangoon, for the presentation of native titles and the reception of memorials. His Excellency, on his arrival, was received by the Chief Commissioner and his principal officers, and proceeded in procession to the hall, in

Durbar at Rangoon.

which a large number of spectators were seated. In opening the proceedings Mr. Fryer introduced Mr. Hoyne Fox, the architect of the buildings, to His Excellency, and explained their object to be to provide accommodation for the Central Administration offices of the Government. The cost of the buildings so far, he said, had been seven lakhs and eighty thousand rupees. They had been designed in the Italian renaissance style, and it was hoped that in the course of time they would form the nucleus of many others of handsome design in the surrounding locality.

His Excellency said :—]

I wish to express my satisfaction at visiting these new and handsome buildings, which, I understand, are this afternoon used for the first time, for the purpose of a public ceremony. That they will be an ornament to the city of Rangoon there can be no doubt. I think we may also anticipate confidently that they will conduce to the more convenient and efficient discharge of public business of the Province.

I trust, Sir, that your hope may be realised, and that these buildings may, in due time, be surrounded by others, worthy of this important and rising Province. I beg to offer to Mr. Hoyne Fox my hearty congratulations on the success which he has achieved, and which I am sure will add not a little to his reputation as an architect.

[Mr. Fryer then introduced Mr. Carey, Political Officer of the Chin Hills, who formally received from His Excellency the badge of a Companion of the Indian Empire. Eighteen Native gentlemen, Civil and Military, were then presented to the Viceroy, and, in turn, decorated with titles or distinctions. Several addresses and memorials were next read. These put forward a variety of requests.

A memorial from certain Burman residents of Rangoon expressed approval of the recent opium rules for Lower Burma, and for restricting and regulating the consumption of ganja, and asked that the Lower Burma regulations for liquor traffic might be assimilated to those in Upper Burma.

An address from the Karen community expressed loyalty to the Government and gratification at the formation of the Karen Military Police Battalion.

Address from Certain Burman residents of Rangoon on temperance.

A memorial from the Bengali residents of Rangoon prayed that the rent of the site of their temple in Rangoon might be remitted, pointing out that other religious communities had received similar concessions.

Another memorial, from a large number of Burmans, asked for a free supply of water to the Buddhist monasteries of Rangoon. The Viceroy replied separately to all of these.

ADDRESS FROM CERTAIN BURMAN RESIDENTS OF
RANGOON ON TEMPERANCE.

20th Nov. 1893. In reply to the first memorial from certain Burman residents of Rangoon, His Excellency said :—]

Gentlemen,—I have listened attentively to the prayer of your memorial. Let me say at once that there is no difference between us as to the value of temperance, or the desirability of inculcating it by precept and example upon the people of this country. The practice of temperance in the use of intoxicating drugs and liquors has the sanction of your religion as well as mine, and the precepts which you have cited from the sayings of Gautama might well find a place in the code of morality of any civilized country in the world.

I rejoice to hear that you approve the measures taken some time ago with the object of restricting the consumption of ganja, a drug which is admitted to have particularly deleterious effects, and more recently for assimilating the Regulations obtaining in this part of the Province in regard to the sale of opium to those which obtain in Upper Burma. The newly issued Regulations are of a very stringent kind, and, I confess, that, speaking for myself, I did not agree to them without grave misgivings. Time only can show whether they will work successfully, and whether they will receive such a measure of support from

Address from Certain Burman residents of Rangoon on Temperance.

the people themselves as to preclude their failure. I have always been one of those who were keenly alive to the danger of restricting personal freedom with the object of compelling the practice of morality, but I recognise that such interference is, to some extent, inevitable. The determination of its amount must depend upon local circumstances, upon the disposition of the people most concerned, and last, but not least, upon the possibility of enforcing the law, or, if it can be enforced, of enforcing it in such a manner as not to afford facilities for the oppression and persecution of the people. Experience will show whether the new arrangements will work or not, and whether any good results to be expected from them are not outweighed by disadvantages of the kind which I have indicated.

I should certainly hesitate to deal with the sale of liquor in the same manner as we have dealt with the sale of opium, or to assimilate the liquor law in this part of the Province to that in force in Upper Burma. I need scarcely remind you that the rule in force in Upper Burma is a continuation of the policy which had found acceptance in that part of the Province before annexation. In Lower Burma, on the contrary, there have, for many years, been no special restrictions on the dealings of Burmese in regard to liquor. In order to carry out such restrictions if now introduced for the first time, Police Regulations of the most stringent type, and proceedings of the most oppressive and inquisitorial character, would be inevitable. It is open to question whether any measures of precaution which it would be within the power of Government to adopt would be effectual for such a purpose. It is far from unlikely that the people would be harassed and the expense of excise administration enormously increased without any commensurate promotion of the cause of temperance. Common prudence would prevent me from

Address from the Karen Residents of Rangoon.

committing myself to such a proposal without the fullest opportunities for enquiry and deliberation. All that I can say this afternoon is that your memorial shall be carefully considered. The final decision will probably not be mine. I have, however, thought it only fair to speak to you frankly, and to let you understand that, while I cordially approve of the motives by which you are actuated, I feel the gravest doubts as to the expediency of falling in with your views.

ADDRESS FROM THE KAREN RESIDENTS OF
RANGOON.

20th Nov. 1893. [In reply to the address from the Karen residents of Rangoon, His Excellency said :—]

Gentlemen,—I thank you extremely for the kind and loyal words contained in your address.

I rejoice to know that the Karen race are taking pains with the education of their children. I had the pleasure of passing on the road, when I arrived in Rangoon, a large number of Karen children, representing, I believe, one of the leading schools, who accorded me a very enthusiastic welcome.

I feel sure that any encouragement which the Local Government is able to bestow upon the education of your children, will be well bestowed.

I have also heard with pleasure your reference to the fact that a Battalion has recently been recruited from amongst your people. The reputation of the Karens is that of good courageous soldiers, and I am extremely glad to think that, in years to come, we shall find some of them fighting in the ranks of our army by the side of our

Memorial from Bengali Hindu Residents of Rangoon.

own soldiers. I hope you will convey to your neighbours and friends an expression of the gratification which your address has caused me.

**MEMORIAL FROM BENGALI HINDU RESIDENTS OF
RANGOON.**

[Replying to the memorial from the Bengali Hindu residents of Rangoon, the Viceroy said :—]

Gentlemen,—Your memorial [is one which requires ex- 20th Nov. 1893.
amination before a final reply can be given to it. You have asked that the site upon which you have recently built your temple should be granted to you rent-free, and you found your request upon a statement that Government has, at various times, made grants of valuable pieces of land rent-free in the town of Rangoon to other religious communities. I am, however, advised that some of these have certainly been required to pay for the sites upon which their religious buildings have been erected. This is a point which will have to be looked into, and, besides this, I am bound to tell you that the question is one which appears to me to concern the local authorities, rather than the Imperial Government, and I understand that, up to the present time, the local Government has considered that there were no sufficient reasons for acceding to your request. The matter will be looked into, and I will take care that the decision, and the reasons upon which it is based, are communicated to you within a reasonable time.

MEMORIAL FROM CERTAIN BURMAN RESIDENTS OF RANGOON.

20th Nov. 1893. [Replying to the last memorial from certain Burmese residents of Rangoon asking for a free supply of water to the Buddhist monasteries, the Viceroy said :—]

Gentlemen,—The prayer of your memorial is that your religious houses may be connected with the water-supply of Rangoon, but that you may be exempted from the usual payment of rent required from all persons whose premises are connected with the water mains.

I understand that your monasteries already enjoy immunity from the general water-tax levied upon all premises within a certain area, whether they are connected with the mains or not. You are therefore able to make use of the public standpipes free of charge. That seems to me to be a very substantial advantage, and I cannot help hoping that you will find that the supply thus brought within your reach is infinitely more useful and wholesome than the supply drawn from wells and tanks under the old régime.

I am afraid I must tell you that, in my opinion, your request that your monasteries should have a water-supply of their own, free of charge, is one which the Municipality has a right to refuse if it thinks proper, nor does it seem to me that Government would be justified in pressing the Municipality to make such a concession. In the first place, free water is not supplied to any other religious buildings. Your fellow-citizens of the Hindu and Mussulman faith, for instance, pay for the water supplied to their mosques and temples if they are connected with the mains. Besides this, the water-supply is, as you are aware, limited, and if water were to be laid on free of charge to your religious buildings, which are very numerous in this city, you would find it extremely difficult to prevent others from using it, as well as the monks. This would scarcely be

Unveiling the Burma Services Memorial.

fair upon the Municipality, and I feel convinced that they refused your request because they had no doubt that as trustees for the interests of the rate-payers of Rangoon no other course was open to them.

I hope you will not regard me as wanting in sympathy with you because I have not seen my way to encourage you in these expectations. I am well aware of the services rendered by the monks to the cause of education in Burma, and I know that those services are, as you have told me in your memorial, rendered without remuneration, and that the monks have consequently no private means of their own. I trust, however, that your co-religionists will find it possible to contrive some arrangement by which the monasteries will be given the advantage of a supply of pure water upon fair and reasonable terms.

UNVEILING THE BURMA SERVICES MEMORIAL.

[The Durbar was then declared to be closed and the assembly proceeded to the grounds below to witness the ceremony of unveiling a memorial to the members of the Civil Department who lost their lives during the early years of the annexation of Upper Burma. The memorial took the form of a fountain, and, in asking His Excellency to unveil, it Mr. Fryer made the following remarks :— 20th Nov. 1893.]

“ The proposal to erect a memorial to the Civil Officers of all nationalities who lost their lives during the year that succeeded the annexation of Upper Burma originated with Sir Charles Crosthwaite. It was represented to him from many quarters that the officers of the Civil Service of Burma were anxious that a memorial should be erected, and were ready to subscribe to it. He accordingly formed a committee for the purpose of raising subscriptions and of proposing some design for a memorial. The Committee met in 1889, and the sum raised from the subscriptions from all the races inhabiting the Province of Burma amounted to £8,000. It was then decided that the form of the memorial should be a fountain, and that this fountain was to be erected at a cost of £4,000, but a further sum of £1,400 was expended in erecting it. The fountain contains eight shields on which are the

Unveiling the Burma Services Memorial.

names of 33 officers—Europeans, Burmans, and Natives of India—who fell during the war, or who died of disease. I have now the pleasure of requesting Your Excellency to declare the fountain open.”

The Viceroy, in reply, spoke as follows :—]

Mr. Fryer, Ladies and Gentlemen :—I am glad to join you in doing honour to the memory of the brave men whose names are recorded upon this monument.

During the last five years it has been my business to follow closely the gradual consolidation of our power in this province and to watch the patience and perseverance with which order has been restored within its limits, and lawlessness suppressed in the unsettled and little-known regions which lie beyond its confines. If that task, so full of danger and difficulty, has been satisfactorily accomplished, it has been mainly by the agency of such men as those whose names are appropriately commemorated upon these tablets. They won their laurels, with which, alas! we have, in too many cases, to decorate their graves, not by taking part in those colossal military exploits over which historians and journalists grow eloquent, but in minor and comparatively little-known operations, such as those which were frequent during the years following the annexation of the Upper Province. They fell, not in battle-fields memorable in the records of the world, but travelling along the less conspicuous but not less honourable paths of duty—paths which brought them face to face with dangers not less imminent and not less trying to the courage. Nor do they deserve less well of their country because they met their death by the weapon of an unseen foe, or from sickness engendered by privation and exposure in some remote and malarious jungle, than if they had perished in some larger or more widely celebrated campaign.

No truer, no more just, tribute was ever paid to the worth of men of this type than the acknowledgment offered to them by the gallant soldier who now holds the Chief Command of the Indian Army, and whose name will always be

Unveiling the Burma Services Memorial.

honourably connected with the history of these Provinces. Speaking in England last winter of his military experiences in Burma, Sir George White told his hearers that there never had been military operations in which so much initiative was left to the junior officers, and he added that they answered nobly to the responsibility entrusted to them, and that it might be truly said that Upper Burma was conquered by the regimental officers and subalterns, and by the men who had learnt to have confidence in them.

But the credit of carrying this arduous task to a successful conclusion certainly does not belong to the soldiers alone. The Burma Commission, the Civil Police, the Military Police, a hard-worked and courageous force, to whose spirit and discipline I am glad to have this opportunity of bearing witness, the Civil Engineers, all bore their part, and bore it nobly. It would not be difficult to cite cases in which men not brought up to the profession of arms performed feats as splendid, and exhibited courage and devotion as conspicuous, as their comrades of the Military service. I can well conceive that the officers in civil employ in these Provinces should have desired to erect this monument in memory of the 33 gallant and honourable men whose names are inscribed upon it.

One word more. You will find among them, side by side, the names of Englishmen, of Natives of India, and of Natives of this country. It is a melancholy satisfaction to think that, upon an occasion of this kind, we should be able to do equal honour to the representatives of the three races. May this recognition of the good service which they rendered be an incentive to all the Queen's subjects in Burma, without distinction of race or creed, to live, and, if necessary, to die for the sake of the Empire of which, I believe, the Province is proud to form a part.

[His Excellency then unveiled the fountain and the proceedings terminated.]

MEMORIAL FROM THE RANGOON CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE.

21st Nov. 1893. [On Tuesday morning, the 21st November, the Viceroy received important deputations from the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce and the Rangoon Bar at 11 o'clock at Government House. Mr. Fryer introduced the members of the deputations to His Excellency. The Chamber of Commerce memorial, which was read by Mr. Pennycuik, the Chairman, pointed out the urgent necessity for reform in the chief tribunals for the administration of justice, a reform which the Government of India had practically acknowledged. The memorialists recently suggested that the Bill drafted in 1886 should be reconsidered and adapted to present requirements, but the form which the desired improvements should take would be better dealt with by those intimately acquainted with the administration of justice in the Province. The present intention of the memorialists was to point out that the system was faulty and imperfect, and that improvement was a matter of paramount importance. The memorialists next urged on His Excellency the necessity for a more liberal expenditure on public works, in the matter of roads, canals and irrigation, as such increased expenditure would add materially to the revenues of the Province. Statistics were quoted to show that the amounts allotted under this head were very inadequate. The memorialists also asked for the favourable consideration of their proposal, recently submitted officially, that Burma should have a representative in the Legislative Council of the Governor General of India, and, lastly, that the Province should be converted into a Lieutenant-Governorship, a change which would greatly tend to the advancement of the country. The Viceroy replied as follows:—]

Gentlemen,—The first subject regarding which you have addressed me is the necessity for the reform of the chief judicial tribunals of the Province. I shall follow your example and avoid discussing this important question in detail. I am to receive a memorial from the Bar of Rangoon, in which the matter will be examined in some detail and with the expert knowledge possessed by the members of the legal profession. It will, therefore, be better that I should refer you to the reply which I shall make to that memorial, and I will merely say in passing that I am quite

Memorial from the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce.

prepared to accept your view that the present system has serious imperfections, and that I concur with you in holding that its improvement should be attempted to such an extent, and at such a time, as the circumstances of the Province may permit.

The second question upon which you have touched is one having reference to the expenditure in this Province upon roads, canals, and irrigation works. You have called my attention to certain figures which, in your belief, justify the view that the amounts hitherto allotted for productive public works are altogether inadequate.

You have dwelt, in particular, upon the fact that in 1891-92 the expenditure on communications was less than 12 per cent. of the total sum spent upon public works of all kinds.

Now, Gentlemen, it is always desirable that, in these cases, the true significance of any figures of which use is made should not be mistaken, and I must, in the first place, point out to you that you appear to have included in the total expenditure on account of public works for the year 1891-92, which you tell me amounted to 61 lakhs, an expenditure of 23 lakhs for the working expenses of railway lines, a kind of expenditure which, in any calculation of this sort, should, I think, be kept distinct from ordinary capital outlay upon the construction of roads, canals, etc.

Then, I think, that, in the 7 lakhs which you have mentioned as spent upon communications in 1891-92, you have not included the expenditure on roads from Incorporated Local Funds, which I am informed amounted to more than a lakh and-a-half. If these facts be taken into consideration, your 12 per cent. would, I am told, be raised to 23 per cent., a much more liberal percentage.

The figures which have been supplied to me, and which will, I believe, bear examination, show that, since annexation, there have been spent in Lower Burma $57\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs on 1,250 miles of road, and, in Upper Burma, $81\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs on

Memorial from the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce.

3,135 miles of road, and that the total expenditure on communications, irrigation, etc., since annexation, has been, for Lower Burma 97½ lakhs, and, for Upper Burma, 113½ lakhs. Upon works of all kinds there have been spent in Lower Burma 236 lakhs, and in Upper Burma 338 lakhs.

But the fact is that, in all calculations of this kind, the Province should be considered as a whole ; and if this be done it would not be difficult to show that, particularly if the expenditure on public works in Upper Burma, which are an Imperial charge, are taken into consideration, Burma, as a whole, has not been illiberally treated. Lower Burma is in the position of having entered into partnership with the Upper Province, and I feel no doubt that the partnership, which was sincerely desired by the Lower Province, will be advantageous to both. The junior partner, with her vast undeveloped resources,—mineral, agricultural, and commercial,—will add greatly to the wealth and prosperity of the firm, but the results of long misgovernment and neglect cannot be set right in a few years, and during the earlier days of the partnership, we must not be surprised if the look of the balance sheet is spoiled by the connection of the older and richer portion of the Province with the younger and less prosperous portion.

If you will look at the figures for the whole Province you will find that the expenditure upon public works, excluding railways and military works, has increased from 37 lakhs in 1884-85 to 83½ lakhs in 1891-92, a rate of increase much more rapid than that of the revenue, which has increased within the same period of time from 253 to 474 lakhs.

Gentlemen,—I have dwelt upon these figures because it is important that there should be no mistake with regard to them, and not because I desire to combat your contention that the Province would be benefitted by a more liberal expenditure of the revenue upon these objects. I

Memorial from the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce.

am well aware that many thousand miles of road are still wanted both in the Upper and the Lower Province, and although we have constructed over 400 miles of railway at a cost of over 400 lakhs of rupees, to say nothing of additions to the telegraph lines representing a mileage of 3,000 miles, I do not deny for a moment that a great deal more remains to be done, and that your progress in these respects might be accelerated with advantage. This is, I am afraid, true of other portions of the Empire as well as of Burma, for there are probably few parts of India in which there would not be ample room for a more liberal outlay upon public works of one kind or another. The fact, however, is that our activity in these directions is limited by our financial resources, and that these have, for reasons with which you are familiar, been seriously crippled during the last few years. However tempting and remunerative the enterprises which we are asked to encourage, we have to bear in mind that a rapid extension of our expenditure for such purposes would be rendered possible only by large additions to our annual borrowings, additions which, under present circumstances, no cautious financier would think of making. I may say with regard to the construction of railways that knowing that our own resources are limited, we are extremely anxious to give every possible encouragement to railway construction by private enterprise, and that we have every hope that the inducements which we have recently offered may be successful in stimulating the extension of branch lines of railway through the agency of private companies.

I may also add that, to my mind, one of the most important and urgent reasons for which it was desirable to deal with the currency question was to be found in the fact that the constant uncertainty with regard to the rate of exchange notoriously had the effect of discouraging the investment of private capital in all parts of the Indian Empire. If we are successful, as I hope we shall be, in giving steadiness

Memorial from the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce.

to the rate of exchange, I am confident that the resources of this rich Province will, in years to come, attract to it a steady stream of private capital, and will render it much less dependent than now upon the assistance of the Imperial Government.

Gentlemen, the next subject to which you have referred is your desire that Burma should be given a representative in the Legislative Council of the Government of India, and you have suggested that your Chamber of Commerce might be invited to nominate a gentleman possessing its confidence to sit as a Member of that Council.

You are aware that the number of Additional Members of the Viceroy's Council is very limited, and I need scarcely point out to you the impossibility with so small a number of seats, of obtaining anything like a complete territorial representation for all parts of the Indian Empire. At this moment the condition of the Council, owing to exceptional circumstances which I have no time to explain in detail, is such as to make it impossible that we should invite this Province to send us an Additional Member, but I can assure you that its claims will not be lost sight of, and that should there be any legislation specially affecting it, care will be taken to secure the presence of a Member competent to represent Burmese interests. I may add that, in the event of an unofficial Member from Burma being required in Council, I feel no doubt that means will be taken to ascertain the views of the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce, although I am not prepared to say that the seat will be filled up upon their advice alone.

Gentlemen, the last subject mentioned in your memorial is your proposal that the Chief Commissionership of the province should be converted into a Lieutenant-Governorship. I am revealing a secret which is, I believe, known to most people, when I say that this proposal has been seriously entertained by the Government of India, and that a recommendation upon the subject was at one time

Memorial from the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce.

made, although without results, to the Secretary of State.

The question seems to be one of opportunity, and I do not think there is any reasonable doubt that your prayer will, sooner or later, be granted. I fancy that if you were to consult a former Chief Commissioner of this Province, Sir Charles Crosthwaite, who now fills with distinction the post of Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, he would tell you that he could see no sufficient reason why there should be any difference between the status of the head of the one Government, and that of the head of the other. But the change cannot be made by a stroke of the pen. Legislation in the British Parliament would be indispensable, and additional expenditure would be involved. I need not remind you that we are living in days when the mere mention of additional expenditure is enough to imperil the prospects of the most plausible proposals, and those who are familiar with the situation at Westminster will tell you that even the most innocent and necessary Bills are apt to be shipwrecked in the stormy seas through which the Parliamentary navigator must steer his course. I, therefore, do not like to give you too much encouragement, especially as there is no chance whatever that the matter will be disposed of during my Viceroyalty. Time is, however, certainly on your side, and I sincerely trust that the question will be disposed of to your satisfaction before the Province is many years older.

MEMORIAL FROM THE RANGOON BAR.

21st Nov. 1893.

[The memorial of the Rangoon Bar was then presented through Mr. E. C. Man, Barrister-at-Law. It was a lengthy one, and pointed out the present anomalous and unsatisfactory condition of the more important courts of Burma, their inadequacy to meet the requirements of the Province, and the paramount necessity for the immediate establishment in Rangoon of a High Court for Burma. They pointed out that this Court might, with great public advantage, perform the duties at present discharged by five different courts possessing limited appellate powers. These five courts are:—The Special Court of Lower Burma; the Calcutta High Court; the Court of the Judicial Commissioner of Lower Burma; the Court of the Recorder of Rangoon; and the Court of the Judicial Commissioner, Upper Burma. They described at some length the evils and disadvantages of such a system, amongst others the anomaly arising from the constitution of the Special Court of Lower Burma, in which the Recorder of Rangoon and the Judicial Commissioner of Lower Burma sit together to hear the appeals from their own decisions when sitting alone. They recommended that the proposed High Court should consist of at least five judges, three of whom should be practising barristers of five years' standing. They urged that Rangoon is the third commercial port of the Indian Empire, and the main outlet for the trade of a large Continent, and that the magnitude and intricacy of the cases, especially commercial cases, place it on the same level as the chief Presidency Towns. The geographical position of Burma, besides, which practically makes it a separate continent with inhabitants differing in race, language, manners, and customs from the races of India—all these considerations emphasized the denial of justice in refusing to the Province a High Court. In conclusion, they pointed out that the expenditure involved would, to a great extent, be repaid by the increase in court-fees, and more than compensated by the improvement and rise of the Province, and they begged the Viceroy to review the official correspondence with the Government of India for the past twelve years on the subject, trusting that a speedy and radical reform might result. His Excellency replied as follows:—]

Gentlemen,—I have listened with attention to the very clear statement in which you have laid before me the reasons for which, in the opinion of the Rangoon Bar Library Association, it has become necessary to reconsider

Memorial from the Rangoon Bar.

the existing judicial arrangements for the Province. Your memorial ends by begging me to review the documents which have been laid before the Government of India during the last 10 or 12 years on this subject, and I might perhaps, under the circumstances, have limited my reply to an assurance that the papers in question should have my early attention, and that I would direct that of my successor to them. It is, however, I think, due to you that I should mention very briefly one or two of the considerations which occur to me.

I wish, in the first place, to say that I am entirely in accordance with you in holding that, as a matter of principle, it is undesirable that Judges of an Appellate Court should sit to hear appeals from the decisions which they have given when sitting alone. You have described this arrangement as an anomalous one, and I believe you would find that it has been similarly described by the Government of India itself on more than one occasion.

While I make this admission, I am not quite sure that I should admit that the analogy of our British Courts was necessarily one which held good in this country. The circumstances of Burma are, in some respects, peculiar, for we have to meet the requirements, on the one hand, of the City of Rangoon, which, as you remind me, is the third commercial port in the Indian Empire, and the main outlet of the trade of a large continent, a City with a numerous European population, and in which large European interests are represented, while, on the other hand, we have to provide for the administration of justice in the remoter parts of the Province to which the elaborate machinery of our European judicial system is probably inapplicable, and where it is desirable above all things to regularise the procedure of the rural courts and to clear up the difficulties presented by the local law.

This consideration is one which has, I know, had much weight with those who have on former occasions investiga-

Memorial from the Rangoon Bar.

ted this question, and who have, I understand, always regarded with jealousy any proposals the adoption of which might have resulted in the imposition of too severe a tax upon the time and attention of the Judicial Commissioner. This consideration is certainly entitled to much weight in the case of the Judicial Commissioner in the Upper Province.

I may, perhaps, say at this point that, almost immediately after my arrival in India five years ago, the Chief Commissioner, Sir Charles Crosthwaite, I believe after careful examination of the case in consultation with the then Legal Member of Council, came to the conclusion that the establishment of a Chief Court in Burma should be deferred, and I am under the impression that he came to that conclusion partly on account of the additional expense likely to be involved by the creation of a Chief Court, and partly on account of the objection to impair the usefulness of the Judicial Commissioner by taking up his time with appellate work.

The outcome of these discussions was the introduction of the Bill known as the Lower Burma Courts Bill in February 1889, which introduced changes intended to reduce the Recorder's work, and which also gave an appeal to Calcutta against all the Recorder's civil decisions, instead of giving such an appeal only in cases valued above a certain limit. That, Gentlemen, was how the question stood when I arrived in this country, and you will probably understand that I should not have thought it necessary to re-open it.

You have now asked the Government of India to examine your proposal afresh, and without attempting to anticipate the decision which may be arrived at, and which will probably depend upon the manner in which my successor will regard the question. I may say that your arguments will be most respectfully examined. Speaking for myself, I may say that it seems to me that this Province,

Memorial from the Rangoon Bar.

with its large and increasing commercial interests, has every right to look forward to the time when it will be provided with a Chief Court of its own. I do not think there is much room for difference of opinion upon that point, although there may be room for difference as to the precise moment at which the change should be introduced. Unless it can be shown that there is a sufficient amount of appellate business to keep a Chief Court employed, such a court would obviously be a superfluous luxury. There has, I am told, been only one appeal from the Judicial Commissioner to the Special Court since 1889, and the total number of appeals from the Recorder of Rangoon, sitting as a Court of Session, to the Special Court in 1892 was only 35, and this was considerably above the average of the three previous years, which was only 24. The total number of appeals to Calcutta has only been 2 in 1889, 2 in 1890, 9 in 1891, and 8 in 1892.

We must, as I said just now, be careful not to sacrifice to the interests of the large cities those of the interior and of the Province generally. I may, however, add that I am under the impression that even if it should be decided not to comply at once and immediately with the prayer of your memorial, it should not be beyond our powers to remove some of the anomalies to which you have called my attention. I understand that the Chief Commissioner is prepared to make certain proposals with this object, and we shall, I need not say, endeavour to turn these to good account. The particular anomaly dealt with in paragraphs 7 and 8 of your memorial—I mean the arrangement under which, if the Judges of the Special Court disagree, the opinion of the Judge from whom the appeal is made, and who may have himself originally tried the case, is allowed to prevail—is, I believe, one which could be removed without much difficulty.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME AT MANDALAY.

23rd Nov. 1893.

[Their Excellencies and Staff, with Mr. Fryer, Chief Commissioner, and his principal officers, arrived at Mandalay at 4 p.m. on the 23rd November 1893. The Railway station was beautifully decorated and a large number of Civil and Military Officials, European and Native, were assembled. An address of welcome in Burmese was presented to the Viceroy, Mr. Burne, the Deputy Commissioner reading the English translation of it, the gist of which will be gathered from His Excellency's reply which was as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—There is no part of my tour in the Province of Burma to which I have looked forward with more interest than my visit to the capital of the Upper Province, and the kindness of your welcome renders me more than ever glad that I should have found it possible to come here before the end of my term of office as Viceroy.

I am happy to believe that the result of British administration in this Province, during the last seven years, has been to render the people of Upper Burma loyal and contented, and to imbue them with those sentiments which have been so generously expressed in your address. They are sentiments which indicate, not a desire on your part for any alteration in your position as subjects of Her Majesty, but your hope for a still larger share of the advantages, moral and material, which have been characteristic of Her Majesty's Government in those regions to which it has been extended. You express your approval of the policy of railway extension, and the construction of works of irrigation, such as those which have been already completed, or which are now in progress, and of plans for the improvement of your city, and for supplying it with water and lighting its streets. Nor have you forgotten the interests of education and philanthropic measures, such as the Leper Asylum, which, thanks to the liberality of some humane individuals, has been opened in Mandalay.

[All that I need say upon this occasion is that I am en-

Address of Welcome at Mandalay.

tirely at one with you upon all these points. We have proceeded steadily with the extension of the main line of the Mu Valley Railway, which now reaches Wuntho, and also with the Katha branch of that line. The important tributary line towards Kunlön Ferry is so large an enterprise that I question whether the Government of India will be able to provide funds for it in the near future. I should rejoice if that line, which would open up the trade of parts of Yunnan and of the Shan States, and which should in time prove a lucrative enterprise, were to be taken up by a private company. At this moment our trans-frontier trade is miserably insignificant, and it is not likely to increase as it ought until railway communication with the frontier has been improved. The undeveloped resources of Upper Burma are immense, and all that is necessary in order to turn them to account is an increased population, improved modes of communication, and a sufficient expenditure of capital. It is remarkable that, at the present moment, there is throughout the whole of Burma no district having a population of the average density of that of India. The scantiness of the population is, however, certainly not due to the inability of the country to support it, for it is beyond question that throughout the Province there are many thousand acres of rich soil awaiting cultivation.

As for education, it is a remarkable fact that the proportion of males returned as literates, that is, having some measure of education, is far larger in Burma than in any other province of the Empire. Half of the male population is so classed in the recent census, and no other province comes anywhere near this proportion, the average for the whole of British India being only a little over 10 per cent., as against 46 per cent. in this Province. I am, therefore, not surprised that you should take an interest in education which the British Government is most anxious to encourage.

Memorial from certain Residents of Mandalay.

In the city of Mandalay considerable improvements have been introduced, and I am glad to hear that a new scheme for the conservancy of the town has been approved, and that a new water-supply scheme is under consideration. The city has, I am sorry to say, suffered severely during the last few years from the ravages of fires which have destroyed many interesting religious edifices, but it is a matter of congratulation that the result of these calamities has been to lead to the adoption of effectual measures for the protection of the town from this peril, and I may be allowed in this connection to say a word of praise for the admirable Fire Brigade which has been established for that purpose.

It remains for me to thank you, in Lady Lansdowne's name and my own, for the hospitality of your reception. I am confident that we shall carry away with us the most pleasant recollections of our visit to this Province, in the welfare and advancement of which I shall certainly continue to take an interest after my official connection with the Indian Empire has come to an end.

MEMORIAL FROM CERTAIN RESIDENTS OF
MANDALAY.

24th Nov. 1893.

[On the occasion of the Durbar held in the Palace at Mandalay by the Viceroy on the 24th November, a memorial was presented to His Excellency by certain of the residents. The Viceroy's reply, in which he referred *seriatim* to the four requests put forward by the memorialists, was as follows :—]

Your memorial was forwarded to the Chief Commissioner less than a week ago, and it has been impossible for me to give to its contents the thorough and leisurely consideration which I should desire to accord to any representation made on behalf of an influential body of the citizens of Mandalay. I am, therefore, able this afternoon only to give you my

Memorial from certain residents of Mandalay.

first impressions with regard to the different matters upon which you have touched.

Your first request is that the terminus of the Mandalay-Kunlön State Railway be at Mandalay, and not at Myohoung.

Your representations as to this point shall be carefully examined, but I can say with confidence that the selection of Myohoung for the junction of the two lines was certainly not due to any desire to divert trade from Mandalay, but to the wish of the engineers to make use of the existing line between Myohoung and Mandalay as an approach to the city, instead of constructing a second line parallel with that already in existence and crossing, like it, all the town roads running east and west by level crossings a short distance apart, crossings which are expensive, dangerous, and a serious obstruction to road traffic.

Mandalay will obviously be the passenger terminus of the new line, and all goods destined for Mandalay can, as a matter of course, be booked to that place. Goods destined for Rangoon would, even if the junction were at Mandalay, certainly be booked through to Rangoon.

It is, I think, a misapprehension to describe the proposal as one for "stopping the railway" at an insignificant station 3 miles from Mandalay. The proposal, as I understand it, is merely that the junction between the two lines should be at the most convenient point. Should the traffic demand it, the line between Myohoung and Mandalay could be doubled hereafter, but there does not appear to be any immediate necessity for this. There will, however, be plenty of time in which to consider these points, and you may be quite sure that they will be considered with due regard to your interests.

Your second request is that the members of the Mandalay Municipality should be elected. That does not seem to me to be, on the face of it, an unreasonable proposal. I understand that a similar proposal was considered by Sir

Memorial from certain residents of Mandalay.

Alexander Mackenzie two years ago, but that he was of opinion that the time for introducing the elective principle had not yet come. I have discussed the question with the present Chief Commissioner, and I gather from him that, in his opinion, there would be no objection to admitting the principle of election in the case of some, at all events, of the Municipal Commissioners. It will, however, certainly be desirable, in view of the difficulties attending Municipal taxation, that the appointment of the President should remain in the hands of the Local Government. This is very commonly the case in our Indian Municipalities.

Your third prayer has reference to a question which has been the subject of much discussion and controversy. Trial by Jury in Lower Burma is, I understand, confined to the towns of Rangoon and Moulmein, and its introduction into Upper Burma immediately after annexation would have been out of the question. Trial by Jury, as you are aware, is not general throughout India, but is only extended to certain parts of the country in which the circumstances of the community render its introduction possible. I can, however, well understand your desire that, in cases involving questions of local custom and habits, the Judge should have the assistance of persons acquainted with them. I am disposed to think that the use of Assessors for this purpose would at first probably be sufficient, and common prudence would, it seems to me, suggest that the experiment of using Assessors should be tried before trial by Jury is introduced. The question is, however, one of far too serious moment for me to attempt to dispose of it upon an occasion like the present.

The fourth matter, to which you have directed my attention, is your desire that the present Civil Judge should, on his retirement, be replaced by a Civilian, or a barrister, or a first grade advocate, with sufficient standing and experience of this country. The initial pay of the appointment

Durbar at Mandalay.

is, I am told, at present not sufficient to attract a gentleman possessing the qualifications which you desire. But I can understand your wish that the successor of the present Civil Judge should be selected with reference to the considerations which you have mentioned, and I feel sure that they will be borne in mind. No steps have, I learn, yet been taken to replace the present Judge, whose term of office has still some months to run.

DURBAR AT MANDALAY.

[On Friday afternoon, the 24th November, at 4 o'clock, the Viceroy held a Durbar in the Audience Hall of the Palace at Mandalay; 24th Nov. 1893.
all the representative Civil and Military Officials, European and Burmese, being present, His Excellency on his arrival was received by Mr. Fryer and his staff, the Hon'ble General Brackenbury, the Judicial Commissioner, the Commissioner of the Northern Division, the General Officer Commanding the Mandalay District, and the Deputy Commissioner of Mandalay. A Guard of Honour of the Wiltshire Regiment was drawn up opposite the entrance. The Durbar was opened by the Chief Commissioner presenting Mr. Thirkell White (Commissioner, Northern Division), whom His Excellency invested with the insignia of a C.I.E. The members of a deputation representing certain residents in Mandalay were then introduced and presented a memorial to the Viceroy, to which His Excellency replied in the terms to be found at page 630. The Viceroy then decorated several Native gentlemen on whom distinctions had been conferred by the Government of India, and the Native Officers of the regiments in Mandalay and of the Mandalay Military Police Battalion were presented to him. His Excellency then addressed the Durbar as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—It is very agreeable, and most interesting, to me to meet so large a number of the people of the Upper Province in this Durbar and to meet them under circumstances as happy as those of the present time. Seven years have passed since my predecessor Lord

Durbar at Mandalay.

Dufferin visited this city. The Upper Province had lately been added to the British Empire, and the thoughts of your people, as well as those of the officials entrusted with the administration of their affairs, were mainly occupied with the measures necessary in order to restore tranquillity to put an end to the lawlessness which had become almost universal throughout the country, and to repair the injury which it had sustained by many years of misgovernment and oppression. The task was an arduous one, but I think you may congratulate yourself upon the success which has been achieved in accomplishing it. Crime and disorder have been put down with a strong hand, while the main body of the people have, from the first, realised that, although we had been compelled to intervene by the misconduct of their Rulers, we had no quarrel with the Burmese nation, but, on the contrary, desired nothing so much as to improve their condition and to enable them to enjoy a share of the prosperity which had for many years past fallen to the lot of the Lower Province. Experience has shown them that we have been able to secure for them the inestimable blessings of peace and good government, and this without vexatious interference with their own institutions. They have seen that all classes of the community have gained by the commercial activity which has followed upon our occupation of the country, and that the Burman trader, as well as the English merchant, has benefited by the change. They have seen, too, that it is our desire, as far as possible, to employ the natives of the country in official positions, and that large numbers of their fellow-countrymen are at this moment so employed.

Amongst the measures which have recently been adopted, or are in contemplation by the Local Government with the sanction of the Government of India, I may perhaps mention specially the proposal to substitute a fixed demand on account of land revenue for the present fluc-

Durbar at Mandalay.

tuating payments and to create an accurate record of holdings. Considerable progress has been made in this direction. The settlement of two districts, Kyauksè and Mandalay, is now practically complete, and those of the Sagaing and Minbu districts are well advanced.

I may perhaps also refer to the measures taken for the relief of the scarcity by which this part of the Province was threatened two years ago. I am not without hope that the irrigation schemes which have now been completed, or which are about to be undertaken, will, before many years, have rendered the people safe from the recurrence of anything like a serious famine. I may mention, as one of the most important of these, the scheme which has been completed for extending and improving the Madaya canal, a scheme which will be of the greatest advantage both to the district and to the city of Mandalay. Other schemes, such as those for the construction of the Mu Valley canal, which will irrigate the dry districts of Shwebo and Ye-u, are under examination, and will, I hope, be, to some extent at all events, carried out. The Kyauksè canals have been put into working order, and will be further improved.

I mention these useful works as illustrations of the interest taken by the Government in the comfort and welfare of the people, who have, since the annexation of the Province, been committed to its charge.

I am glad to say that within Upper Burma violent crime has so greatly diminished that it is actually less than in Lower Burma. All the great dacoit gangs which infested the province at the time of annexation, and which continued their depredations in the earlier years of our rule, have been dispersed and suppressed.

ADDRESS FROM BURMESE RESIDENTS AT BHAMO.

1st Dec. 1893.

[The Viceroy arrived in Bhamo on Thursday, the 30th November, and, on the afternoon of the following day, held a Durbar on the upper deck of the Chief Commissioner's barge, all the principal Civil and Military Officials of Bhamo being present. After some formal presentations had been made, an address of welcome from the Burmese Residents of Bhamo was read, to which the Viceroy replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—I have, in the first place, to thank you for the kindness with which you have welcomed me to this place. It is, I believe, my good fortune to be the first Viceroy who has ever visited Bhamo, and I rejoice to learn from your lips that its people are not less loyal and devoted in their allegiance than those of the other parts of the Province.

I take note of the satisfaction which you express at the progress which has been made in reducing to order some of the lawless tribes whose depredations have so much retarded the progress of this part of the Province. With the restoration of order you will, I am confident, see an increase in the activity of trans-frontier trade, and in the commercial prosperity of your town.

You have mentioned the importance which you attach to the improvement of the road between Bhamo and Namkan. I am glad to be able to inform you that the construction and maintenance of this road have been taken in hand, and that the Government recognises its value as a trade route, and will endeavour to maintain it in good order. I am also glad to be able to tell you that operations for the purpose of improving the navigation of the Irrawaddy and the Mogong rivers were undertaken last year, and will again be undertaken this season. This, too, is a matter, of which the importance is recognised, and it will not be lost sight of.

You express a hope that the railway will, before long, be opened to Myitkina and Mogong. As to this I have to

Address from Burmese residents at Bhamo.

say that railway construction is being pushed on as rapidly as our resources permit, and I have no doubt that the line will before long be completed as far as some convenient point on the Upper Irrawaddy.

I have mentioned to the Chief Commissioner your desire that the roads in the town of Bhamo should be improved. I find that the necessity of such improvement is admitted, and that an endeavour will be made to provide for it.

Your memorial proceeds to deal with the important question of the arrangements for the impressment of labour for transport purposes.

I share your opinion that, except in cases of absolute necessity, the compulsory impressment of labour for transport is undesirable, and should only be resorted to when no other means of obtaining it are available. There is every reason to believe that the hardship which has been occasioned to the people of this neighbourhood is less than it was, and I trust that, with the improvement in the navigation of the river, and the opening of the railway, the need for impressing labour will practically disappear. This question shall receive the careful attention of the local authorities.

Your next request is that the Forest dues which you regard as too severe may be reduced, and that they may be remitted in the case of timber required for religious buildings. I have called for a special report upon this question.

I understand that the Forest Regulations already permit the free extraction of timber for this and other purposes, provided that the timber does not pass a Revenue station. It is not the intention of the Government of India that duty should be levied on timber extracted otherwise than for trade purposes, and the Local Government will be instructed to see that this intention is carried out.

The last prayer of your memorial is that land-tax may not be levied on premises already charged for thathameda.

Memorial from the Chinese at Bhamo.

I understand that no land-tax, properly so called, is levied in Upper Burma, but that rent is levied on State land. Land other than State land pays neither rent nor revenue to Government. Thathameda is, however, levied upon every one not exempted for special causes, and a tenant of State land is therefore liable to thathameda in addition to his rent, that is to say, a tenant of State land pays rent as well as thathameda. just as a tenant of non-State land pays rent to the owners of the land and thathameda to Government. This system has, I am told, been in force from the time of the Burmese Government, and I do not think it would be possible for me to require the Local Government to submit to the large loss of revenue which would be involved if all tenants of State land who pay rent were to be exempted from thathameda.

Allow me, in conclusion, to express the pleasure which it has given me to meet this deputation, and my best wishes for the welfare and prosperity of this part of Upper Burma.

MEMORIAL FROM THE CHINESE AT BHAMO.

1st Dec. 1893. [A memorial, setting forth the wants and grievances of the Chinese residents of Bhamo, was next read to the Viceroy by one of the deputation of Chinese, who now appeared before him. To this memorial His Excellency replied as follows, his remarks being translated, sentence by sentence, by an interpreter :—]

1. I am very glad to meet these representatives of the Chinese trading community of Bhamo, and I think it quite natural and proper that they should avail themselves of my presence in order to talk to me freely about any matters in which they have a special interest. I should like to have spoken to them about each of the points mentioned in their memorial, but the full text of the memorial has only been placed in my hands within the last hour, since I came back from Senbo. I had seen before what

Memorial from the Chinese at Bhamo.

purported to be a version of it in Burmese, but I find that, in the full memorial, there are many points which were not contained in the Burmese version. What I therefore propose to do is to send to these gentlemen in writing a full reply to all the statements contained in their memorial, and, in speaking to them this afternoon I shall only say a few words for the purpose of making them aware of my sympathy with them, and my desire that their grievances should be fully investigated.

2. I see in their memorial that they refer to the want of sympathy shown to them by the British officials, and they speak of there being what they call "a barrier" between them and us. They say, in particular, that the British Government has a contempt for the welfare of the Chinese traders, and that the officials look down upon them as if they were a very unimportant section of the community. I want to tell them, as the head of the British Government in the Indian Empire, that they are entirely mistaken in believing that we look down upon the Chinese community, or that there is any want of goodwill or of a desire to treat that community with the utmost consideration.

There are two reasons for which the British Government desires to treat the Chinese traders with justice and consideration. One is that they belong to a great Nation—the Chinese Nation—with which the British Government has friendly relations, and between which and the British Government there is no ill-will whatever. Besides this, the British Government recognises that the Chinese traders are a very industrious and useful class, and that they deserve what encouragement we can give them because of the services which they render to the public in promoting the interests of commerce. I would beg them, therefore, to dismiss from their minds the idea that there is any desire on our part to oppress them, or to give them any but the fairest and most just treatment in Bhamo.

Memorial from the Chinese at Bhamo.

3. I notice in their memorial that they complain of the manner in which some of them have been treated by the police. As to that I wish to tell them that if they have any complaint to make against the police for rough or violent usage, those complaints shall be fully investigated and redress given to the sufferer. If they come and settle in Burma, they must of course expect to be governed by the law of the country, in the same way as all other foreign settlers, no matter to what country they belong; but neither in their case, nor in the case of any other foreign settlers, is it the wish of the British Government that there should be rough or violent usage, on the part of the police, or harsh treatment by the officials.

4. The memorialists have made special requests connected with the manner in which thathameda is levied. I understand that what they ask for is that thathameda should be paid according to houses, and not according to households. Under the present law, the payment of thathameda is by the household, and not by the house; and there would be considerable difficulty in changing the law, because if the tax were levied upon the house, and not upon the household, it is likely that large numbers of families might escape the tax altogether. Instructions have been given to the revenue officers against enforcing the law in such a manner as to subdivide families, which ought not to be subdivided.

5. They also, I understand, ask that the partners and relations, and servants, who live in the same house should be exempted from separate payment of thathameda. The rule is, that servants and relations who depend upon the head of the household are considered to be a part of that household, and are, therefore, not taxed separately. That is, I think, the arrangement which they desire should be made. [The deputation here intimated that such was the case.] On the other hand, partners who have a separate means of livelihood are counted as if they belonged to a

Memorial from the Chinese at Bhamo.

separate household and are separately assessed. I will have the matter inquired into, but that seems to me to be a just and reasonable arrangement.

6. I see the memorial also contains a statement as to the desire of the Chinese traders to be allowed to import Chinese liquor from China. It may interest the deputation to know that a change has lately been made in the law with regard to the importation of liquor, and that there is nothing now to prevent the import of Chinese liquor by land into the Indian Empire, provided, of course, that it pays the ordinary duty. If, therefore, they wish to import their Yünnan liquor into Bhamo, subject to the usual regulations, there is, so far as I am aware, no reason why they should not henceforth do so.

7. They have also spoken in their memorial of their desire that their temples should be protected from desecration by the visits of unauthorised persons. So far as I am aware, no complaint has been made upon that subject to the local officials, but they may depend upon it that, if we find any of our people desecrating their religious buildings, the persons guilty of such conduct will be most severely punished. According to the Indian law, any person desecrating a religious building, or indeed any person guilty of conduct calculated to give offence to the religious scruples of his neighbours, is punishable with much severity, and that law would certainly be enforced in the case of offences against the religious houses of the Chinese.

8. As to the use of forest produce, such as timber and bamboos, for their temples, these gentlemen probably heard what I said just now to the Burmese Deputation, and I therefore will not repeat it. If there are any special grievances on account of Bhamo being a revenue station, and timber consequently being made to pay duty when it passes through, we will have that matter examined, and if there is any well-founded grievance, it will be removed.

9. I have now dealt as fully as I am able with the sub-

Address to Kachin Chiefs at Bhamo.

jects which you have brought before me, and I will only add that it is the desire of the Queen's Government to deal justly and liberally with the Chinese in regard to these and all other matters. The Chinese are our near neighbours in this part of the Empire, and we are sincerely anxious that our relations with them should be of the most amicable character. I think you will admit that your fellow-countrymen have been treated in the Indian Empire with a degree of consideration which they have not encountered in any other foreign countries. At this moment an important negotiation is, as you are aware, proceeding between the Chinese and the British Government, in regard to the demarcation of the frontier between Burma and Yünnan. I have every hope that that negotiation will soon be concluded in a manner honourable to both sides, and I feel sure that the officials of my Government will be able to count upon the cordial co-operation of the Chinese officials in the enforcement of order and the suppression of crime and lawlessness upon the Chinese side of the border throughout the frontier districts.

[A brief discussion then took place between His Excellency and the members of the Deputation regarding certain points not referred to in the memorial.]

ADDRESS TO KACHIN CHIEFS AT BHAMO.

1st Dec. 1893.

[The Chinese Deputation having retired, the leading Kachin Chiefs present in Bhamo were next brought up and presented individually to the Viceroy. At the conclusion of the presentations, and after they had been seated on the deck, His Excellency addressed them as follows, his remarks being subsequently read to them in the Kachin language :—]

I am glad to have an opportunity of visiting Bhamo, and to see so many representative chiefs from all parts of the Kachin Hills.

I regard your presence here to-day as a sign of your loyal

Address to Kachin Chiefs at Bhamo.

submission to the Government under which you are now living, and of your confidence in its intentions towards you. It is particularly gratifying to me to receive, on the borders of their own country, Kachin Chiefs and headmen who have rendered special service to the British Government.

I have learnt with pleasure that, throughout the hill tracts which have been brought under our administration, peace now prevails and obedience is rendered to lawful authority. The roads through the hills are, at this moment, safer for travellers than they have been for many years past, and even on the farthest borders of the districts the tribes and villagers are ready to refer their disputes for peaceful settlement by Government officers.

I wish you to know that the Government of India has no desire to interfere with your private affairs, but that wherever our administration extends, crime and disorder must be suppressed. There must be no attacks on caravans; there must be no dacoities, or raids on villages in the plains; there must be no resistance to the lawful authority of the officers placed over you; in respect of these matters there must be no doubt in your minds.

You are aware of the severe punishment which has been dealt out in the past to the tribes and villagers guilty of acts of plunder and lawlessness. You may be sure that such acts will be punished with the same severity in the future. You are not, however, to suppose that the British Government is unfriendly towards you, or that it desires to deprive you of your country. We have no desire to harass the Kachins, to drive them from their hills, or to oppress them; on the contrary, so long as the lawful orders given to you are obeyed, you will be more secure than you have ever been in the enjoyment of all your just rights and privileges; you will be permitted to live in peace and to cultivate your taungyas in the hills; you will be able to come freely into the towns and villages to

Address to Kachin Chiefs at Bhamo.

trade, and to obtain the necessaries of life ; and, if you desire to do so, you will be permitted to settle in the plains, and will be given lands for cultivation.

Whether you avail yourselves of this privilege, or whether you remain in your own hills, there will be no unnecessary interference with your hereditary customs ; there will be no needless restrictions, and the authority of your chiefs over their tribes will be recognised.

I trust that the peace which now prevails in the hills may remain unbroken, and I wish you, when you go back to your villages, to repeat to your tribesmen what I have said, and to assure them that the sole desire of the British Government is that the Kachins may be contented and prosperous.

SMALL CAUSE COURTS BILL.

[In the Legislative Council, held at Government House on the 4th 4th Jan. 1894. January 1894, the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Miller, in moving that the Bill to amend the Presidency Small Cause Courts Act, 1882, be referred to a Select Committee, spoke at some length on the subject of the various opinions expressed with regard to it. At the close of his speech His Excellency the President remarked :—]

The Hon'ble Legal Member in making this Motion has supported it by a number of arguments of a very technical and, if I may say so without giving him offence, controversial character. I think it due to my hon'ble colleagues, and to myself, to say that the statement of the Hon'ble Legal Member must be taken as representing his own views upon the points with which he has dealt, and not as in any way committing the Government of India. The Select Committee will obviously be entirely unfettered in dealing with this important measure. I have made these observations in order to avoid possible misconception.

ADDRESS FROM THE CENTRAL MAHOMEDAN ASSOCIATION.

22nd Jan. 1894.

[A deputation consisting of about sixty Mahomedan gentlemen, representing the Central National Association, and a large number of branch associations all over India, waited upon the Viceroy at noon on Monday the 22nd January, at Government House, to present His Excellency with a farewell address. Many of the members of the deputation came from distant places in order to be present. Prince Furrokh Shah, who headed the deputation, read the address, from which the followiag are extracts :—

“India possessed in Your Excellency a sagacious and sympathetic Ruler, who, has always been solicitous of promoting equally the legitimate interests and aspirations of all the *different classes* of the people committed to his charge; and a striking illustration of this

was afforded by the elevation for the first time of a distinguished member of our community to the Bench of the highest tribunal of the Province, and by Your Excellency’s steadfast attitude at the time when the mutual relations of the two important Indian Communities, *namely*, the Hindoos and Mahomedans, were alarmingly estranged by religious prejudices. Beyond a few petty disturbances on the frontiers of the country, a prolonged period of peace has enabled Your Excellency to devote constant attention to the initiation and execution of projects tending to the general development of the country, in respect of which it is easy to foretell that they will be productive of lasting benefit to the teeming millions of the land. But, above all, the most important administrative reform with which Your Excellency’s name will ever be associated, and which will also secure for it a permanent place in the grateful remembrance of the people, has been the extension of the Legislative Councils on a wider representative basis,—a measure the full benefit of which, though yet derived almost exclusively by one community, will, we hope, in time, lead to a fair representation of our people also in the Councils. Alluding, lastly, to the crowning event of Your Excellency’s term of office,—an event the political importance of which it is difficult to exaggerate, and that will stand as a monument of Your Excellency’s far-sighted statesmanship,—we feel justified in expressing the conviction that the establishment of more cordial relations between the Government of India and the Ruler of Afghanistan by the Durand Mission has served to scare away for a long time to come the spectre of a foreign invasion from the North-Western frontier of the Empire.”

Address from the Central Mahomedan Association.

His Excellency replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—I understand that this deputation has addressed me, not only on behalf of the Central National Mahomedan Association, but in the name of a large number of a local branches representing the Mahomedan community throughout the length and breadth of the Empire. That community is one which numbers nearly 60 millions of souls. There is no Ruler, European or Asiatic, whose sovereignty is acknowledged by so vast a Mahomedan population as the Queen-Empress. I can, therefore, assure you that I fully realise the importance of any expression of opinion proceeding from such an organisation as yours. I rejoice to know that I carry away with me its good-will, and that it gives me credit for having endeavoured to discharge the duties of my office with justice and impartiality. I have never, I hope, failed to recognise the loyalty and attachment of the Mahomedans of India to the British Government, and I have spared no pains to secure to them their fair share in the public employment of the country. It gave me the greatest pleasure to gratify their desire for representation on the Bench of the Calcutta High Court by recommending for appointment to it a Mahomedan gentleman, whose position at the Bar seemed to me to entitle him to such advancement, and who has, I am glad to hear, thoroughly justified his selection.

I note with satisfaction your reference to the attitude of the Government during the deplorable conflicts between the Hindus and the Mahomedans which have lately occurred in more than one part of India. The Government of India will, I have no doubt, be found ready to enforce the law, and to strengthen it, should it prove to require strengthening, but I feel that there never was an occasion when it was more desirable to rely, not only upon the law, but upon the influence of moderate and reasonable men. I trust that that influence will be exerted on both sides,

Address from the Central Mahomedan Association.

and I feel no doubt that your Associations will throw their weight into the scale upon the side of prudence and mutual forbearance.

Gentlemen, I observe with satisfaction your approval of the recent re-constitution of the Legislative Councils, and of the attempt which has been made to give them a more representative character. This measure is one in which I have, as you are aware, taken a close personal interest, and it was, in my opinion, not a little satisfactory that we should have been able to obtain the necessary legislation in the Imperial Parliament at a time when the condition of public business at home was such as to place apparently insurmountable obstacles in our way. I am glad to have this opportunity of bearing witness to the personal good-will with which Lord Cross, the then Secretary of State for India, regarded this measure, and to the support which we received from him in our efforts to press it upon the attention of Parliament. I hold with you that the Councils, enlarged as they have been in point of numbers, and endowed, as they now are, with new and important functions, will be the means of bringing the Government of India into closer touch with public opinion in this country, and of affording additional securities for the soundness and utility of our legislation. You have expressed a hope that your people may not be denied a fair share of representation upon the enlarged Councils. As to that, I may tell you that it has, from the first, been our intention to secure them a reasonable number of seats. The vacancy which was recently created by the retirement of Mr. Chentsal Rao Pantalu will, I hope, be filled by the appointment of a Mahomedan gentleman, and the Council would then include eight Indian Members, of whom three would be Hindus, two Sikhs, two Mahomedans, and one Parsi.

Gentlemen, I have, in conclusion, to thank you for your

Address from the Calcutta Municipality.

congratulations upon your success in establishing cordial relations with his His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan. I have always recognised the importance of securing the confidence of a Ruler who occupies so distinguished a position amongst the people of your creed, and I have spared no efforts in order to convince His Highness of the sincerity of our good will towards him, and of our conviction that his interests are, in many respects, identical with our own. It is most satisfactory to me to know that these feelings are reciprocated by His Highness.

Gentlemen, it remains for me to thank you once more for your kindness, and to assure you that both Lady Lansdowne and I will leave India with feelings of the utmost regard for the great community of which you are the representatives.

ADDRESS FROM THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPALITY.

[At 1 o'clock on Monday the 22nd January, a numerously attended 22nd Jan'y. 1894. deputation of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation waited upon the Viceroy at Government House, and presented him with a farewell address.

The address which was read by Mr. Ritchie, the Offg. Chairman, was as follows :—

“ We, the Municipal Commissioners of the Town of Calcutta in Meeting assembled, venture to approach Your Excellency to take leave of you on the eve of your departure from this city, after you have filled for a full time the most dignified and laborious office of Viceroy of the Indian Empire.

“ It has been the good fortune of Your Excellency that your attention to the internal concerns of the Empire has not been distracted by serious foreign complications. You have, however, had to contend with many and grave anxieties, as well as difficulties, connected with the state of the finances of the Empire and the financial outlook for the future.

“ While there must of necessity be divergences of opinion as to the remedies which have been suggested or adopted, divergences which must preclude any discussion by such a body as ours, there can be no

Address from the Calcutta Municipality.

difference of opinion as to the earnest and devoted attention you have brought to bear on their consideration.

"You have, whenever opportunity served, fostered commerce, encouraged education and maintained almost unimpaired that rate of railway extension which it was the policy of your predecessors to initiate as a powerful means for developing the resources of the country and improving the condition of the people.

"In taking leave of Your Excellency it is our hope that the wide experience you have gained of the requirements of the Empire will bear fruit in other spheres. We are assured that India and her people will always find in Your Excellency a sincere and earnest friend, and we beg to wish Your Excellency and Lady Lansdowne a pleasant voyage home and a happy and prosperous future."

His Excellency replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—I have much pleasure in accepting the address with which you are good enough to present me in the name of the Municipal Commissioners of this city.

I have, since I arrived here in 1888, spent a considerable part of each year under the wing of your Municipality, and these have certainly been the months to which we have looked forward with the greatest pleasure. I rejoice that you have not allowed me to leave Calcutta without an expression of your good-will.

Your Municipality is, as you remind me, a non-political body. That, however, does not mean that its members are indifferent to political questions. It contains, on the contrary, the representatives of many different political schools, who cannot be expected to part with their convictions when they enter your Council Chamber. In a body so situated, it is inevitable that divergences of opinion, such as those which you have indicated, must exist as to many questions of public interest, and in no respect is there perhaps more room for such divergences than in respect of your estimate of the conduct of the head of the Government of India, a Government which is called upon to steer its way among the currents and shoals of political controversy, and which necessarily finds itself obliged at

Address from the Calcutta Municipality.

times to run counter to the sentiments of one section or another of the community.

I shall, therefore, be careful not to read into your address anything which it does not contain. I accept it merely as a general expression of the personal good-will of the Corporation, and of your opinion that I have, to the best of my abilities, and as far as my opportunities permitted me, endeavoured to promote the interests of your country.

I am especially grateful for your sympathetic reference to the difficulties which have been occasioned by the state of our finances. Nothing is more calculated to cripple the usefulness of an Administration, or to diminish its popularity, than its inability to make both ends meet.

This is especially the case in India, where a liberal outlay of public money is so much required for the development of the natural resources of the country, and where expenditure of this kind produces such admirable results. We have constantly regretted our obligation to restrict within narrow limits our expenditure on such reproductive works as railways and irrigation. We have been able to maintain, during the last few years, a fairly steady, though, in my opinion, not by any means sufficiently rapid rate of railway construction. I trust that the time is not far distant when this city will be provided with direct communication with the two great arterial lines which are now approaching it from the South and from the South-West.

I can assure you that you are not mistaken in anticipating that my interest in India will not cease with my departure from your shores. I shall leave your country, at all events, knowing more of men and things than when I arrived, and it will indeed be a source of satisfaction to me if I am able in my place in Parliament, or elsewhere, to assist the public at home in arriving at a just conclusion in regard to Indian questions.

Farewell Ball at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Gentlemen, in the kind wishes with which your address concludes, you are good enough to include Lady Lansdowne. I thank you cordially both for her and for myself. It is the good fortune of the Viceroy's wife that, however fiercely the storm of political controversy rages round her husband, she, at least, is sheltered from its blast. I can, however, assure you that, although my experiences have been less serene than hers, I do not yield to her in my attachment to this country, and in my earnest hope that Providence may bestow upon it in the future an abundant measure of prosperity.

In conclusion, I wish to add an expression of my thanks for the very artistic silver casket in which you have presented me your address. It will remind me of the agreeable seasons which I have spent in your city, and of this occasion on which you bid me farewell.

FAREWELL BALL AT THE TOWN HALL, CALCUTTA.

22nd Jan. 1894.

(Extracted from the "Englishman," of Wednesday, 24th January 1894.)

The Calcutta Town Hall has been the scene of many a brilliant entertainment, but it would be no exaggeration to affirm that for splendour the Farewell Ball given there on Monday night to the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne by the European public of Calcutta was the most imposing ever witnessed within its walls. The beauty of the spectacle presented by the transformation of the immense extent of both the upper and lower halls could scarcely have been surpassed. Never before has so large a gathering assembled in the Town Hall on a like occasion. Every condition of success was present, and the Farewell Ball will long be remembered as one of the most brilliant events in the social history of Calcutta.

Of the decorations of the Town Hall it is impossible to speak too highly. A large *shamiana* canopied the steps which give access to the main entrance, the steps being carpeted and the whole being illuminat-

Farewell Ball at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

ed by electric light specially set up for the occasion. Passing through the lower hall, which was laid out for the supper, the company proceeded upstairs. The staircases were very tastefully decorated with foliage plants, while the vestibule was arranged as a drawing-room with luxurious furniture. Entering the hall, the scene was one which baffles description. The roof was chastely draped in Louis XV. style with light blue and white, the colours of the Order of the Star of India, and the brilliant gaslight which pierced through shone with a mellow radiance upon the gay assemblage. The doors and windows were draped alternately with the colours of the Orders of the Star of India and the Indian Empire, the latter being of a deeper blue than the former. The stage at the south end had been removed, and in its stead a dais was erected in the middle of the main hall, from the centre of which a magnificent palm spread its leaves over a veritable cloth of gold. Here and there along the wings of the hall, pleasant arbours were erected, the intervening spaces between the arbours and doors being decorated with paintings of the coat-of-arms of the House of Lansdowne. The other rooms on the upper floor were laid out as sitting-rooms and ladies' retiring-rooms. The band was accommodated in the gallery, below which the Great Eastern Hotel Company, who were the caterers for the occasion, had arranged a buffet. The supper-room below was profusely decorated with flags and other bunting, the Viceregal table being surmounted by strips of red and white, the Lansdowne colours.

The company began to arrive about nine o'clock, and shortly after half past nine, the music of the National Anthem announced the arrival of His Excellency the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne. Their Excellencies were received by a deputation of the Executive Committee who led the way to the hall upstairs, where dancing commenced immediately after the arrival of Lord and Lady Lansdowne. The outer steps were lined by a large contingent of the Body-guard.

After supper the Hon'ble General H. Brackenbury proposed the health of the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne. General Brackenbury, on rising, was greeted with loud and prolonged cheers. He said :--]

Your Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—We have met to-night, as a party of friends, to bid farewell to our guests, Lord and Lady Lansdowne ; and in asking you to give expression to that farewell in the good old English form of a toast to their health, I shall say, in few words,

Farewell Ball at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

why we so deeply regret that the time is close at hand when their presence will no more brighten our social gatherings in India.

Lord Lansdowne has won the esteem and regard of all who have known him by his rare personal qualities. (*Hear, hear.*) No pressure of business, no amount of anxious care, has ever changed that kindly, considerate manner which has made personal intercourse with him to all who have had the privilege of it, one of the greatest pleasures of their lives. (*Cheers.*) He has never forgotten those small courtesies, those little kindnesses, which might so easily have been overlooked, and which in the strain and stress of a Viceroy's official life, would have been forgotten by any less thoughtful and less unselfish nature. (*Cheers.*)

But there is one quality in him which has, I think, more than any other won for him our admiration and respect. In the old days it was the fashion to add to the names of Kings epithets describing their personal qualities. They were called the Great, the Good, the Handsome, and even the Unready. I think if this custom were followed with our Indian Viceroys, there is an epithet which by universal consent would be applied to Lord Lansdowne. He would be called "The Straight." (*Loud and prolonged cheers.*) Not only once, but over and over again have I heard this expression applied to him in conversation, and many of you have not forgotten the cheers that greeted the words of our friend, Mr. Moore, when a few weeks ago in this Hall he spoke of him as "straight, loyal and true." (*Cheers.*) Yes, "straight" because his mind cannot harbour a crooked thought, "true and loyal," chivalrously loyal to the Government of the Queen whom he has served, loyal and staunch, chivalrously staunch, to those who, according to their lights, have tried to serve him honestly. (*Cheers.*)

To no Viceroy who ever left the shores of India can

Farewell Ball at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

there be more confidently applied Tennyson's words in his Ode on the Duke of Wellington :—

“ Truth-lover was our noble Duke,
Whatever record leap to light,
He never shall be shamed.”

Of Lady Lansdowne I could so much more easily speak if she were not present, for I know that if I were to say half of what is in your minds I should bring blushes to her cheek. And therefore I will not dwell upon her generous hospitality, her sweet and graceful courtesy, her ever-ready sympathy. I will only say that I hope she knows how she has won the hearts of us all, men, women, and children (*loud and prolonged cheers*); and I will apply to her also some words of Tennyson, spoken of his own creation, Her Ladyship's name-sake, Maud :—

“ There is none like her, none,
Nor will be when our summers have deceased.”

(*Loud and continued cheers.*)

Your Excellencies will forgive me if I have spoken of you with greater freedom than I could have dared to speak at any other time than on the eve of your departure. I might easily have said more ; less, I honestly believe, would not have given true expression to the feelings which animate those who are your hosts to-night. (*Hear, hear and cheers.*)

And now it remains for me, on behalf of those hosts, to say to you the saddest words in the English language, the words “ Good-bye,” to express our earnest prayer that you may long enjoy every happiness together, true and faithful friendships, the love of your children and your children's children, and to assure you that you take away with you from India that which, if I judge your character aright, you will value more than any other reward, the sincere and respectful affection of all who have known you here.

[The band then played “ Auld Lang Syne,” the whole company

Farewell Ball at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

joining in the song, and the health of the guests was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm, three cheers being given for Lord and Lady Lansdowne.

His Excellency, who, on rising, was greeted with enthusiastic and long-continued cheers, replied as follows :—]

“General Brackenbury, Your Honor, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,—When, a short time ago, General Brackenbury made me aware that our health was to be proposed, he gave me to understand that, as I was expected to make a somewhat lengthy speech to-morrow evening, I should be excused if I confined myself to a very few words in returning thanks for the toast which he has just proposed in such feeling language. But now that I have risen to thank you for your kindness and to endeavour to express our gratitude, it seems to me that, after all, the longer speech which I shall have to make to-morrow may be the less difficult to make of the two; for how is it possible for me to compress within a few sentences the thoughts which arise in our minds, and when we think of all your kindness to us?

We, Ladies and Gentlemen, cannot regard this magnificent entertainment as an incident by itself. To us it represents the climax of those relations of mutual kindness and good-will which have subsisted, I think I may say without a break or interruption, and undisfigured by even a passing cloud, between us and our Calcutta friends, for nearly six successive seasons. (*Loud and continued cheers.*)

I cannot tell you what pain it gives us to think that, for the future, all these things must be to us memories—very bright and pleasant memories it is true, but only memories of the past, and that the time is so near at hand when we shall have to bid you farewell.

General Brackenbury has referred to us both in terms so generous that it is impossible for me to thank him or you as I should wish. I rejoice to think that, at such a

Farewell Ball at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

moment, you are ready to forget our short-comings, of which there have, I have no doubt, been plenty. Let me say that if we have deserved any of the kind things which have been said of us, our task has been made easy for us in more ways than one. Ladies and Gentlemen, you have, in the first place, always helped us over our difficulties by allowing us to meet you as friends without constraint or embarrassment, and to join freely with you in the daily round of your cold weather life. (*Cheers.*) Under such pleasant circumstances what might have been a thankless and wearisome task becomes a labour of love.

I feel also how much we owe to our staff, and, above all, to that veteran member of it whom his Calcutta admirers entertained the other day with so much enthusiasm (*loud cheers*), Lord William Beresford, whether he has had to discharge his confidential duties as Military Secretary, or to guide the wandering steps of our distinguished visitors during the cold weather (*laughter*), or to keep a watchful eye upon the interval between the ladies' trains at the drawing-room (*laughter*), or to prevent his chief from making some unpardonable false move at a Birth-day parade (*continued laughter*), has ever shown himself thoughtful and considerate for the comfort and convenience of every one excepting perhaps himself. (*Cheers.*)

I have myself had the advantage of being assisted by a hostess who, without having recourse to any very deep-laid diplomatic arts, has contrived to make those with whom she has been brought in contact feel that to her it was indeed a pleasure, and not a duty, to entertain, or to be entertained by them. (*Loud and prolonged cheers.*)

In offering you her thanks for the toast to her health, I can say in all sincerity of her that I do not believe that any Viceroy's wife was ever more devoted to Calcutta (*hear, hear, and cheers*). I think I might almost say that whereas many people go home with a feeling of joy,

Farewell Ball at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

tempered by a few regrets, the dominant feeling in her mind on leaving India is one of regret for which even the prospect of a return to home and friends does not by any means sufficiently console her.

As for myself, no one knows better how much I owe to my friends, official and unofficial. I have always felt that public life would be unendurable if it were not relieved by private friendships, and it has been a relief and a delight to me to be, at times, figuratively as well as literally, allowed to emancipate myself from the thralldom of my official uniform, and permitted to enjoy myself with you, let us say during a quiet afternoon's racing on the maidan, or a cheery game of tennis at Belvedere, or with the Maharaja. (*Hear, hear, and cheers.*)

Of all these pleasant doings we shall carry away delightful recollections,—recollections to which we shall recur in years to come as we sit beneath grayer skies, and amidst less picturesque surroundings. And, above all our bright reminiscences of India, there will rise the memory of your constant kindness to us—a kindness which has never failed us from the day when we first set foot here in 1888 until this the last scene to-night.

[The Viceroy resumed his seat amid the enthusiastic cheers of the whole company who had gathered round.]

ADDRESS FROM THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

[A deputation consisting of the members of the Senate of the 23rd Jan. 1894. University of Calcutta waited upon the Viceroy at Government House at noon on Tuesday the 23rd January and presented His Excellency with a farewell address. The deputation was headed by Sir Alfred Croft, the Vice-Chancellor, who read the address which was as follows :—

“We, the Members of the Senate of the University of Calcutta, beg leave to approach Your Excellency, on the eve of your retirement from India, with this humble testimony of our appreciation of the kindly interest in the affairs of the University evinced by your Excellency as its Chancellor throughout the term of your office.

“In the midst of numerous and pressing engagements Your Excellency found it possible to preside at five successive annual Convocations of the University for the purpose of conferring degrees. Almost all the addresses Your Excellency has delivered on those occasions have either contained some important announcement which conferred new rights on our Graduates, or raised hopes of an enlargement of the privileges of the University. Your Excellency's addresses, invariably conceived as they were in the most generous spirit, were accepted by us as expressions of your sympathy with our interests, our work, and our aims.

“At a time when there existed in some quarters an impression that Government had resolved to reduce its grants for higher education, Your Excellency was pleased to give us the assurance that there was no likelihood that any such re-actionary policy would be pursued by either the Government of India or the Provincial Government.

“The University has been honoured by Your Excellency in the appointment of one of its Graduates to the high office of Vice-Chancellor.

“Your Excellency was also pleased to confer on the Graduates of the University a substantial right which considerably raised their status, by permitting the senior members of their body to select two of their own number, and recommend them for nomination as Fellows of the University. The franchise thus conferred in 1890 has since been enlarged, for in the past as well as in the present year the Graduates were permitted to make three nominations. It is gratifying to us to observe that the selections made by the Graduates have invariably been confirmed by Your Excellency. We cannot but feel

Address from the Calcutta University.

honoured by the recognition thus given to our Graduates, which, while it adds to their privileges, accustoms them also to discharge a responsible function in regard to the University.

"It is to Your Excellency that we are indebted for the great and valued privilege of representation on the Bengal Legislative Council. When Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India had occasion to frame new regulations with reference to the constitution of the Legislative Councils of this country, Your Excellency was pleased to propose that we should be allowed to select one of the Members of the Local Legislative Council. We were not surprised to hear from Your Excellency that you would be disappointed if your proposal was not accepted. We can now only congratulate Your Excellency, the country, and ourselves, on the fact that your exertions have borne fruit,—that we not only enjoy the privilege to-day of electing a Member to the Local Council, but that we have already had one opportunity of exercising this privilege.

"It is not necessary for us to attempt here to review, with a larger reference to details, the many ways in which Your Excellency has demonstrated a sympathy at once generous and earnest with our University and its students. They are fresh in our memory, and they awaken our liveliest gratitude. It is sufficient to state that never during any other single period of five years has the University been more richly endowed with privileges than in Your Excellency's administration. There are reasons to hope that the rights thus bestowed will not be taken away from us; for we have Your Excellency's high assurance that the privilege, for instance, conferred by Your Excellency on our Graduates, is not likely to be withdrawn.

"In Your Excellency's first utterances addressed to us, you were pleased to say that you enter upon your work as Chancellor as "an old University man." All our experience has made us feel that Your Excellency's relations with this University have been marked by that sympathy which is generally found to exist between University men and their own Universities. In return, we can only offer our gratitude. It is our sincere wish and fervent prayer that Your Excellency may enjoy yet many years of health, happiness, and prosperity; and we venture to hope that the Calcutta University may still continue to occupy a place in Your Excellency's thoughts."

His Excellency replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—You could not have taken a step more calculated to give me pleasure than the presentation of

Address from the Calcutta University.

this address, carried, I understand, unanimously by the distinguished body of which you are members.

The Viceroy fills the post of Chancellor of your University in virtue of his office; and he may, consequently, regard his connection with the University as being, in a sense, a formal one. I can, however, assure you that I have always desired that my connection with you should be something more than a mere formality. It has been very agreeable to me to take part, from time to time, in your business, to meet you year after year, to listen in Convocation to the admirable addresses delivered by successive Vice-Chancellors, and to watch the troops of students from all parts of the Province approach the table to receive their Degrees or the rewards and distinctions which they had won.

Of my own exertions on your behalf you have taken far too indulgent a view. It was a source of satisfaction to me to be able to appoint to the Vice-Chancellorship the learned Judge of whom mention is made in your address, and whose eloquent words, spoken in my own language, but inspired by the literature and sentiment of his own country, made a lasting impression on my mind. The University has, I think, every reason to congratulate itself upon the fact that such men as the learned Judge, and his distinguished successors, are found ready to undertake the delicate and difficult duties of the Vice-Chancellorship in addition to their ordinary official work.

During my term of office it has been my constant endeavour to maintain the reputation and enhance the utility of the Senate by restricting the new appointments to men of eminence in the various branches of learning with which you concern yourselves, and by limiting the selection to those who were likely to be able to take an actual part in your deliberations; I have accordingly abstained from nominating Fellows merely *honoris causa*. The bestowal of an honorary Degree seemed to me a more

Address from the Calcutta University.

appropriate mode of conferring a purely honorary distinction. I believe that this modification of the former practice has been generally recognised as desirable.

The experiment of inviting the senior Graduates to recommend two, and afterwards three, of their number for nomination as Fellows of the University, has, I am glad to think, proved successful, and has, I believe, given a new element of strength to the Senate.

It was also most agreeable to me to introduce into the Regulations, with reference to the constitution of the re-constituted Legislative Councils under the new Act, one which enabled this University to supply the Bengal Legislative Council with a Member.

I trust that the University will continue to grow with the growth of this country, that it will maintain the high standard of its Degrees, and that it will do all that lies in its power to promote, not only learning of the kind which secures a University distinction, or advantageous employment, but the advancement of true knowledge, and the moral progress of the youth of this part of India. I am glad to refer, in this connection, to the progress which, greatly aided by the benevolent interest taken in it by the Lieutenant-Governor, has been achieved in forming a Society for the higher training of young men. I understand that the Committee of the Society has already, with the assistance of the Lieutenant-Governor, been able to establish a head-quarters for itself.

I may, perhaps, mention that Lord Elgin is, like myself, an old University man. We were, in fact, educated at the same college, and I feel no doubt that he will be as anxious to associate himself with you as I have been during the last five years.

Gentlemen, in your last paragraph you tell me that you can only offer me your gratitude. I can assure you that I value it very highly, and that it gives me sincere satisfaction to hear from your lips that, in your opinion, I have earned it.

DINNER AT THE ROYAL EXCHANGE.

[On the evening of Tuesday, the 23rd January 1894, the Viceroy was entertained at a farewell dinner by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, as representing the mercantile community of the capital of India. The dinner which was given at the Royal Exchange was on the scale of a public banquet, there being some two hundred persons present. The Royal Exchange was most effectively decorated for the occasion. Lord Lansdowne on his arrival was received by the Hon. Mr. Playfair, the Chairman of the Chamber, and a deputation of the Committee, who conducted His Excellency to his place at the table, the band playing the National Anthem. The Hon. Mr. Playfair presided at the dinner, having on his right His Excellency the Viceroy, Mr. J. N. Stuart, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Mr. C. H. Moore, Sir Alexander Miller, and Mr. R. Steel, and on his left His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. J. Ralli, Sir Comer Petheram, the Hon. General Brackenbury, Mr. J. Stevenson, and Mr. D. Cruickshank. After dinner a number of ladies arrived, including Lady Lansdowne, Lady Beatrix Fitzmaurice, Lady Elliott, Lady White, Lady Macdonnell, and Mrs. Gladstone. There were also a number of Native gentlemen present.]

23rd Jan. 1894.

The toast of the Queen-Empress having been duly honoured, the Hon. Mr. Playfair rose and said :—

Gentlemen,—The pleasant duty now devolves upon me to invite you to do honour to the toast of our guest this evening, His Excellency Lord Lansdowne. (*Cheers*.) It is appropriate that Lord Lansdowne should be the first guest of the mercantile community in this the new home of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce—(*hear, hear*)—inasmuch as it is to his personal request to Her Majesty, urged in courtesy to us, that Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to confer upon the merchants of Calcutta the privilege of designating this building “The Royal Exchange”—(*Hear, hear and cheers*). This is the first occasion that this Chamber has entertained the Viceroy, and the circumstance in itself may be understood to mark the esteem in which Lord Lansdowne is held by this section of the community. (*Cheers*.) It is a privilege afforded to us by this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the courtesy Lord Lansdowne has invariably shown to the mercantile community, the patient hearing he has always given to its representations, and his accessibility to its members; this last a personal feature of his Vicerealty that has been highly appreciated—(*Hear, hear and cheers*). I have the great pleasure to announce that Lord Lansdowne has become entitled to the freedom

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

of this Chamber (*cheers*), having, at the invitation of the Committee become enrolled as an Honorary Member of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. (*Cheers.*)

It is fully five years since His Excellency's illustrious predecessor announced Lord Lansdowne's advent, and, in doing so Lord Dufferin prophesied for Lord Lansdowne an important influence over the social and political world of India, and this prophecy we have the pleasure to-night to record as having been justified by the result. (*Cheers.*) Our distinguished guest has filled the high office of Ruler of India for a full term, and is now about to pass on to a successor the responsibilities and the toils, as well as the honour and the lofty and most arduous duties of this high position. The five years of administration now completed, have been years of freedom from famine and from foreign troubles, excepting such disturbances as wild tribes on the frontier periodically provoke. Over the long mountain range from Beluchistan to the Chin Hills, Lord Lansdowne leaves the frontier stronger than he found it (*cheers*) with additional securities for its peace, and it is a matter of congratulation that His Excellency is able to go away with the proud sense that our relations with the Amir of Kabul have advanced another long stride towards cordiality and confidence. (*Loud cheers.*) In addition to this, in Kashmir, Kelat, and Manipur, Lord Lansdowne has upheld the authority of the Empire and has insisted upon the duties to be observed to the subjects of the Native States. In justice to the people Lord Lansdowne has not hesitated to limit the powers of, or even to remove, misguided and oppressive rulers, while he has had respect to those family interests and that independence of Native States with which policy the Government of India has identified itself. (*Cheers.*) When we turn to the internal administration of India we find a variety of problems that have commanded attention during the past five years. In spite of almost overwhelming difficulties and discouragements, an attempt has been made to grapple with the currency question, and the Legislature have endeavoured to find a remedy for a very serious disorder. This effort is the outcome of Lord Lansdowne's administration having been beset, in an aggravated form, with what Lord Dufferin described as his greatest difficulty, the fall in the value of silver, the effect of which has necessitated taxation and has continued burdens upon the people of the country that no Government can wish for.--(*Cheers.*) It has probably deprived the administration of additional investments of British capital for the further development of the railway system of India, which is so much desired on the part of the people and for the benefit of commerce, and which development Lord Lansdowne has

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

shown he has had so much at heart. (*Cheers.*) It will deprive Lord Lansdowne, I fear, of the satisfaction of relieving the lower class of contributors to the income-tax, a piece of good fortune afforded to Lord Canning, and which evoked for that statesman a special outburst of popularity before his departure. (*Cheers.*)

Questions of the most delicate and intricate character have come into prominence of late. Agitations among the Natives, apparently harmless, have developed a dangerous religious character. The peace of the community has been wantonly disturbed and alarm created over large districts. In such circumstances it was with feelings of great satisfaction that the Viceroy's speech at Agra (*immense cheering*) made it clear, in an unmistakeable English manner, that disorder would not be tolerated, and that aggressive religionists would not be permitted to disturb the public mind or endanger the public tranquillity. (*Enthusiastic cheering.*)

In all that it has fallen to Lord Lansdowne to do he has exhibited the same high sense of duty. And when he shall have recovered by quiet repose the wear of body and mind incidental to the laborious duties he has undertaken with such success, and assumed, as he doubtless will, high office in the service of his country at home, we shall look with confidence for the friendly and interested use of his influence on behalf of India—an influence that can be powerful for good, possessed as he is of an intimate acquaintance with the India of to-day and with the questions pressing upon the attention of the Indian commercial community. (*Loud cheers.*) Changes in India are so pronounced, alterations in the character of the trade are so important, the development of the commerce of the country has to be watched so keenly, that it may be admitted to be in the highest degree desirable that the English people should have in the deliberations of its Parliament the freshest knowledge of Indian questions as well as the widest and most varied possible acquaintance with its industries, its agricultural resources and systems, and its commercial requirements and methods, and of this knowledge we know Lord Lansdowne has accumulated a rich store. (*Applause.*)

The exercise of Lord Lansdowne's high authority and the dissemination of his enlightened views may help to educate and guide British public opinion upon the necessity, in a country such as India, of having a respected and consistent system of Government (*cheers*), and so counteract the proposals of that dangerous section of adventurous politicians—(*hear, hear*)—who would rashly experiment in governing at the expense of India. (*Cheers.*) Time has not altered the opinion expressed, a few years ago, by this Chamber of Com-

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

merce, that the moment it is felt that India is to be made a theatre for speculative experiments in Government, the stream of British capital will begin to flow in other and safer directions, and the value of the capital invested in this country will begin to shrink.

I believe it will be your pleasure, gentlemen, that I should ask you to associate with this toast the name of Her Excellency Lady Lansdowne (*loud and continued cheers*), whose gracious favours have been so impartially bestowed, and whose presence in Government House has added an additional charm to the bountiful hospitality that has been dispensed by their Excellencies. (*Applause.*) I ask you to wish Lord and Lady Lansdowne a pleasant voyage, a happy reunion with friends at home, and a continued and prosperous career in the service of their Queen and Country.

The toast was drunk with enthusiasm, and three hearty cheers were given for the Viceroy, and an additional cheer for Lady Lansdowne.

His Excellency, who rose amid enthusiastic cheering, spoke as follows:—]

Mr. Playfair, Your Honor, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have, in the first place, to express my high appreciation of the honour which you have done me in asking me to be your guest in this building, an honor which is not diminished by the fact that I am, I believe, the first Viceroy, who has had the privilege of being entertained by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. You have paid me the additional complement of admitting me to the Honorary Membership of the Chamber, a compliment which I value very greatly. (*Cheers.*) Allow me to offer you my congratulations upon the new home which the Chamber has acquired, a home worthy of the designation which has been conferred upon it by the gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen Empress (*cheers*), a permission which, let me say, was accorded with the utmost readiness by the Sovereign whose personal interest in the affairs of Her Indian Empire I have had exceptional opportunities of watching during the last five years. (*Cheers.*)

Let me, in the next place, and before I go further,

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

return you my personal thanks and those of Lady Lansdowne, for the manner in which you have referred to us both, for the good wishes which you have expressed for our safe return, and for our happiness in the old country. We shall both of us, I can assure you, preserve nothing but kindly recollections of the years which we have spent in India. Of the many interesting episodes in which I have taken part, none will remain more indelibly fixed in my mind than this great gathering to which you have bidden me. (*Cheers.*)

I do not know whether, amidst such surroundings, you will expect your new Member to make you a speech upon commercial subjects. I might promise to do so, and yet allow myself a very wide measure of latitude, for there is no single department of our administration in which the business men of Calcutta are not interested. In the preservation of peace within the Indian Empire, in its protection from external danger, in the efficiency of our Civil administration, in the soundness of our financial system, in the development of the country by useful productive public works,—in all these the business men of Calcutta have at least as large an interest as any other class of the community. (*Cheers.*)

I hope, however, that I may say that, even in the more restricted interpretation of the words, the Government of India has not been unmindful of commercial interests during the last five years, and that you will give us credit for having done all that lay in our power to promote them. I may certainly plead that, in one respect, we have striven hard to strengthen what I may call the very basis and foundation of our commercial fabric in India—I mean our Currency system. (*Cheers.*) A great deal has happened since I last referred to this subject in public. The Sherman Act has, after a hard struggle, been repealed, and the 54 millions of ounces of silver bullion which, while that Act was in force, were consumed by the United States,

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

have been added to the great mass of silver thrown upon the markets of the world. Then we have had the adoption of a minimum rate for Council Bills by the Secretary of State, and his failure to sell his Bills ; the enormous importations of silver bullion, and the apprehension that an Import Duty on silver might be imposed, and might still further imperil our China trade ; followed by the recent announcement that it was not intended to resort to such a duty. Finally, we have had the abandonment of the minimum at the very moment when all the indications seemed to point to the near approach of an increased demand. I will not, upon such an occasion as this, attempt to decide whether the Government of India was well advised or not in recommending the Secretary of State to support our Currency legislation by refusing to dispose of his Bills below a certain price. That policy received much encouragement in India, and we recommended that a trial should be given to it. Whether it has received a sufficient trial, whether it would have been worth while to persevere longer with it, is, I think, open to doubt. (*Loud cheers.*) But it was obviously a policy which could not be pursued for an indefinite time, and the Secretary of State assures me that, after taking the best advice obtainable, he has come to the conclusion that the time has arrived for its abandonment. Neither he nor we, nor so far as I am aware, any of the prophets foresaw the huge imports of silver bullion to which, more than to any other cause, must be attributed his inability to find purchasers. The result has been disappointing, and the prospects of our Currency legislation probably appear to many people more discouraging than ever. I trust, however, that too much will not be made of the failure of this particular experiment, and that the public will not assume that because it has failed, our legislation is destined to failure. The assumption would be quite unwarrantable. It is far too early to declare that that legislation has failed. (*Cheers.*) The

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

Secretary of State's attempt to support it by holding back his Council Bills, was not an essential part of the scheme. I think I might describe it as an excrescence,—some people would, I suppose, call it an unhealthy excrescence,—upon the scheme. The success of the scheme, properly so called can be assured in one way, and in one way only, by such a restriction of the volume of the currency as will confer upon the rupee a value in excess of that of the metal which it contains. (*Cheers.*)

Such a restriction will, we believe, in time occur, if the mints remain closed (*loud cheers*). In the meanwhile we may, I fear, expect renewed fluctuations in the rate of exchange, to which a certain degree of stability had been imparted. To what extent and for how long I will not try to predict. No one can, I am afraid, foretell the length of time which it will take to slake the apparently insatiable thirst of the natives of this country for silver which seems to be cheap, but for which they are, I believe, all over India paying prices far above its present bullion value. We have had many explanations of the reasons which have led to the large absorption of silver bullion. It has been sometimes said that it has found its way to the mints of Native States, sometimes that wholesale false coinage was in progress, sometimes that uncoined silver was taking the place of coin as a medium of exchange. The explanation is, however, I believe, a much simpler one. I am assured that to an Indian villager the temptation of purchasing a ten rupee bangle, for eight rupees, is irresistible. I do not know whether his satisfaction would be increased if he were aware that he was increasing the difficulties of the Finance Member of Council. Nor, again, can any one say when our trade will have adjusted itself to the new circumstances which have arisen, or whether the balance of that trade, which recent events have disturbed so violently, will re-assume its normal condition. There is no coin, as Mr. Goschen has told us, which has exhibited

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

the same perversity as the rupee. That is, after all, only another way of saying what we are all finding out by experience, namely, that the further we go, the more evident does it become that, in a country like this, with a huge population, the bulk of which knows little of passing political events, and is deeply wedded to custom and tradition, sentiment and habit are more powerful than economical laws. We need, therefore, not be ashamed to confess that we have encountered difficulties some of which were not foreseen. Nothing has, in my opinion, yet happened to show that they are insurmountable. Our policy remains what it was, and there is no intention of changing it. It will, I believe, produce the desired effect, and, if it does, it will do more for the commerce of India than has been done for it by any enactment of the Legislature for many years past. I earnestly hope that we may be justified in anticipating a time when those who have suffered so severely during the present crisis may find some recompense for the anxiety which they have undergone and for the losses which they have sustained. They deserve all the sympathy and all the assistance, which we can give them in passing through so trying an ordeal. (*Cheers.*)

Let me read to you the words in which the President of the United States, under not very dissimilar circumstances, lately addressed Congress:—

“The recent repeal of the silver purchase clauses has made an entire change in our Currency affairs. I do not doubt that the ultimate result of this action will be most salutary and far-reaching. In the nature of things, however, it is impossible to know now precisely what conditions will be produced by the change, or what, if any, supplementary legislation may, in the light of such conditions, appear essential or expedient. After the recent financial perturbations, time is necessary for the re-

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

establishment of business confidence,"—and then follows this significant sentence;—

"We should resolutely turn away from all alluring temporary expedients, determined to be content with nothing less than a lasting and comprehensive financial plan."

These, Gentlemen, are wise and dignified words, and I think we may well lay them to heart.

There is perhaps, one other point to which I ought to refer in this connection. I know that it has been held in many quarters that the Government of India were to blame for having passed so important a measure as the Currency Act of last year at Simla, instead of in this city. Now, as to the question of principle involved in this criticism, there is no difference of opinion between us and our critics. I hold strongly that all important measures affecting matters of general interest,—questions upon which light can be thrown by discussion in Council,—should be dealt with at Calcutta, and not at Simla. (*Cheers.*) The object of such discussion is to elicit public opinion, to ventilate the details of the proposed legislation, and to give ample notice to the public of what is intended. But, Gentlemen, I venture to ask you,—Should we have advanced that object by coming down to Calcutta, and holding a special session for the purpose of debating the Currency Act? You will remember that the position of the Currency question in June last was altogether exceptional. The policy which the Government of India was prepared to adopt was one of the nature of which the public were perfectly aware, and we had not adopted it without courting criticism and discussion, and without giving to the commercial community the fullest opportunities for making known its views. (*Cheers.*)

In the speech which I delivered in Council upon the Currency Bill, I expressed my opinion, an opinion which I still hold, that no question had ever been subjected to more

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

thorough discussion out of doors than that with which we were concerned, and that no debates in Council could be so instructive, or so exhaustive of the subject, as the discussions which had been proceeding in the public Press and at public meetings, upon the Currency question during the last year or two.

I hold that opinion still, and I would ask you whether, if it is true that public interests suffered, as they did from the premature revelation of our scheme, they would not have suffered still more if the Government of India had postponed its action until there had been time for a summer session of the Legislature at Calcutta. I can assure you that this aspect of the case was not one which escaped our attention, and so thoroughly were we at one with you in regard to the general principle that we had actually decided that, if special legislation became necessary for the purpose of imposing further taxation upon the people of this country, the Government was to come down for that purpose and to hold a special session in this place. (*Cheers.*)

I cannot leave this subject without expressing my entire concurrence in what fell from your President when he spoke of the disastrous effects of fluctuations in the value of silver upon the investment of British capital for the development of our Railway system, and for the benefit of commerce. I do not mean to say that the commercial development of India has been altogether arrested. Certain industries have no doubt thriven under a falling exchange, a stimulus which obviously could not operate for an indefinite time, and it is easy to point to the fact that India has in many departments of its industrial development made very fair progress ; but I confess that when I consider what that progress has been, when I consider the resources of this country, its fertile soil, its cheap labour, its teeming population, its undeveloped mineral resources, I am not so easily satisfied. The question is not whether

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

there has been progress, but whether there has been progress of such a kind as the representatives of the commerce of this country can be content with. In Railway construction, we have certainly fallen very far short of what might have been wished. We have now some 17,000 miles of line open, but our average mileage of new lines has during recent years, not exceeded about 1,000 miles. Compare this with the rate of Railway development in the United States, where the total rose from 9,000 miles in 1850 to 163,000 miles in 1890, and do not let us forget that of our small total, scarcely a mile has been built by what can properly be described as private enterprise. There may have been other obstacles, and we have, as you know, been endeavouring to remove them by offering more liberal inducements to promoters, inducements which we have lately striven to render more attractive still, but I have always believed that what more than anything else deterred private enterprise from building railways for us in India was the instability of the currency. Give us a steady exchange at a reasonable figure, and I shall be much disappointed if you do not find that European capitalists are ready to prefer the promising railway projects which are ripe for execution here, to the much less sound financial enterprises which have lately absorbed so many millions of British money in other parts of the world. (*Hear, hear and cheers.*)

I said just now that commercial men were interested in the safety of the Empire, and it will be generally admitted that the primary duty of the Government of India is to render the Empire secure within and without, secure from foreign aggression on the one hand, and from internal disorder on the other. The necessity of providing against the first of these dangers has, perhaps, been more prominently before our minds of late years. The unsettled state of European politics from which those of India cannot be dissociated, the rapid advance of a foreign

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

Power towards our western frontier, to which might be added indications that another great Power is exhibiting disquieting activity on the Eastern side of India, the profound peace which has, with happily rare exceptions, obtained within our borders,—these things have all led men's minds to think more of the external menace than of those internal dangers inseparable from our presence in this country, and of which their thoughts were full a generation ago. I may, perhaps, be allowed to say that, having been in constant confidential communication, during four years of my term of office, with two successive Commanders-in-Chief and two successive Military Members of Council, I feel no doubt, not only that we have made considerable progress of late in adding to the security of the Empire (*cheers*), but that, in respect to our ability to deal with an emergency, either within or without the limits of the Empire, we are, at this moment, stronger than we have ever been. (*Cheers*.) Our defences have made progress, and are approaching completion if there is such a thing as finality in these matters; our means of communication have been enormously improved, and our troops were never so well armed and equipped, or so ready to take the field. (*Loud cheers*.)

And here I should like to refer specially to three military measures which have been in active progress during my term of office, and in which I have taken a special interest.

In the first place, we have endeavoured to substitute in our Native Army, materials recruited from the most warlike and manly races of India for the indifferent material of which some of our regiments have been composed. We think that, if you are to pay for a soldier, it is our business to give you the best soldier that money can buy. (*Cheers*.) In the second place, we have succeeded—carrying out in this respect the policy of my distinguished predecessor, Lord Dufferin—with the hearty co-operation of the Chiefs

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

and Rulers of the Native States, in associating a portion of their troops with our own forces for purposes of Imperial defence. I desire to take this opportunity of expressing our obligation to the Chiefs and Rulers of the States which have furnished Contingents. Some of them are fit to take their place side by side with our best Native troops, and the present, and the late, Commander-in-Chief have borne witness both to their value as part of the forces of the Empire, and to the excellent spirit by which they are animated. (*Cheers.*) It may interest you to know that these troops have been, on several occasions, brigaded with our own for purposes of military training, and that upon those occasions they have been not only well conducted, but absolutely free from crime. In the third place, we have, after a prolonged struggle, got rid of the old system under which the Armies of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies lay outside the direct control of the Government of India—a system which led to delay and circumlocution where there ought to have been promptitude, and to friction where the machine ought to have worked without a hitch (*cheers*)—a system founded upon obsolete ideas, condemned by Government after Government, and at last put an end to by Imperial legislation undertaken at our earnest and often reiterated request. For the future, although we shall decentralize as far as possible in matters of detail, all the larger questions of military administration affecting the Army as a whole will be dealt with by the Commander-in-Chief and the Supreme Government, and an end will be put to the absurd condition of things, under which, in time of war, a military operation might be taken part in by forces drawn from three different armies, each subject to, and controlled by, a different local administration.

So far, all is plain sailing. Every one will agree that we must be ready for the struggle, and that we must submit to the expense involved by the necessary measures of

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

precaution. Those who are interested in our commerce will, I hope, regard that expense in the light of an insurance, and only ask that we may be given good value for our money. But there is another kind of Military expenditure of which the necessity is less obvious to those who are not behind the scenes, or who have not closely watched the course of events during recent years—I mean the expenditure which we have incurred on minor military operations at different points along the frontier, on what Sir George Campbell called ‘those ignoble little wars,’ of which we have, I am afraid, had a good many of late, and which are vulgarly supposed to be brought about by ambitious young officers desirous of advancement in their profession, and of obtaining the decorations and rewards so dear to the heart of the soldier.

In one sense, Gentlemen, these little wars are certainly not ignoble. The officers and men who have been employed upon them have shown not less courage and devotion than that which has been displayed in the course of warfare upon a larger scale. (*Cheers.*) Indeed, I have sometimes thought that an even larger share of fearlessness and resolution is required in these small military operations in remote places than when large numbers of men are engaged, and when each individual feels himself supported by the presence of a numerous body of his fellow-soldiers. (*Cheers.*) I doubt whether any feat of arms taxes in a larger degree the possession of the finest soldier-like qualities than the attack on a bamboo stockade surrounded by dense jungle in the face of a treacherous foe and a pestilential climate, with perhaps a mere handful of troops or police; or the storming of a precipitous hillside commanded by the Sungars of a hostile tribe in some far off corner of the Gilgit Agency; and whatever these little wars have done, or failed to do for us, they have, at least, brought into prominence the splendid intrepidity of our officers and men under the most trying circumstances. (*Loud cheers.*)

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

No one, however, grudges more than I do the expenditure, both of money and of human life, which these little wars involve, or appreciates more than I do the impatience with which they are often regarded. That impatience is, however, I cannot help thinking, founded upon forgetfulness of a very important consideration. It is this—that the restlessness perceptible at different points of the frontier is merely the outward and visible sign of the fact that the Indian Empire is, owing to events beyond our control, passing out of the stage of isolation—out of the stage when it could afford to do without a definite frontier, into a new stage when it will be virtually continuous with two, or perhaps three, great Powers, and when, whether we like it or not, the acceptance of definite frontiers and spheres of responsibility will be forced upon us.

I ask you to look at the map of India, with its 5,000 or 6,000 miles of land frontier, and to consider how few points there are at which you could, half a dozen years ago, have said confidently “here is our boundary, let us sit down behind it, and avoid the condemnation due to those who remove their neighbours’ land-marks.” Here and there for a few miles the frontier had been distinctly demarcated, and could be laid down with confidence, but it is no exaggeration to say that, except at a few occasional points, the frontiers of the Indian Empire, from the Arabian Sea to the little known dependencies of Burma lying beyond the Salween River, have, until quite lately, been in what may be termed the fluid state.

Instead of the sharp and clearly defined red line so welcome to the cartographer, we have had on the Western side of the Empire the ill-defined possessions of the Khan of Kalat, the wild Baluch clans of the Zhob Valley, the mountain fastnesses of Waziristan, the warlike tribes of the Khyber, and the congeries of petty Chiefships known as the Bajaur group. On the North we have had to deal with the remote valleys of the Gilgit Agency,

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

abutting upon the lofty passes of the Hindu-Kush; with the Pamirs, the meeting place of three great Empires whose competing claims have yet to be adjusted; and with the great barrier range of the Himalayas, as yet but little surveyed or explored. On the East, we have been confronted with the trackless and almost unsurveyed region lying between Bengal and Burma, tenanted by Chins, Lushais and other unsatisfactory neighbours; while beyond Burma again was to be found another vast tract of country occupied by little known States and tribes, some of which undoubtedly owe allegiance to us as the residuary legatees of Burma, whilst others have apparently had connections with Siam or China as well as with Burma.

Now, so long as the political eye saw in these regions nothing more but a no-man's land, the territory of petty Chiefs, exclusively occupied in the congenial pastime of cutting one another's throats, or stealing one another's subjects, we could afford to be indifferent to what passed within them and to pursue the policy of hitting them when they hit us, and then leaving them severely alone. The last few years have, however, witnessed a great change. Russia on the one side, France on the other, and China on the third, have steadily advanced. Russia has of late displayed much activity in the extension of her Asiatic Railway system, in establishing advanced frontier posts, and in claiming hitherto unclaimed tracts in close proximity to the Passes of the Hindu-Kush. France, on the other side, has, as we all know, moved forward to the Mekong, and is now separated from us by the very flimsy barrier which the so-called "buffer" State will provide. China has made considerable advances. Nor have we altogether stood still, for on the Eastern side of British India the annexation of upper Burma has completely altered our position, and has given us a new interest in the Chin-Lushai country, which has become an enclave in British territory, and territorial claims extending up to,

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

and even beyond, the River Mekong, the left bank of which has, as we know, lately passed under the control of a great European Power.

Is it not obvious that, under these circumstances, our interest in the intervening country is enormously increased? In political geography, Nature abhors a vacuum, and if one thing is certain, it is that, under present circumstances, any spaces left vacant upon our Indian frontiers will be filled up by others if we do not step in to fill them up ourselves. (*Cheers.*) And thus it has come to pass that districts which we could afford to regard with indifference as "no-man's land," or as border Alsatias, with which we need have no concern, have suddenly become of vital importance to us as forming part of the marches of the Empire.

On our Western frontier there is a special reason for which we cannot afford to observe a policy of mere abstention as regards the border region. We are under a solemn obligation, in certain circumstances, to assist our ally, the Amir of Afghanistan, in maintaining the integrity of his possessions. The pledges which we have given to him are, no doubt, carefully guarded, and accompanied by indispensable reservations, but they are pledges which no British Government can ignore—pledges which may compel us in a certain event to meet an enemy beyond our own frontiers. In such an event we should have to make use of the great natural avenues leading from British India towards Afghanistan, and we have consequently built a line of Railway through the Bolan Pass, we have fortified Quetta as an advanced post, while, more lately still, the Gomal Pass has been opened, and our communications between Quetta and the mouth of the Gomal through the Zhob Valley have been considerably improved. (*Cheers.*)

Now, it is under these circumstances that there has grown up the idea of that which is conveniently described as a "sphere of influence" adjoining the frontier, properly so called, of the Indian Empire; a sphere, that is,

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

within which we shall not attempt to administer the country ourselves, but within which we shall not allow any aggression from outside. (*Cheers.*)

The principal conditions upon which it is, in my opinion, necessary to insist in dealing with the tribes and petty States, falling within the limits of such a sphere of influence as I have described, are these:—First, that, within that sphere we should ourselves hold direct relations with the tribes, but allow them to hold relations with no other Power (*cheers*); secondly, that we should reserve to ourselves the right of free access and the right of making roads, and, if necessary, posts, for the protection of those roads; thirdly, that we should respect the independence of the tribes, and not attempt to interfere in the management of their internal affairs, or to bring them within the operation of our Courts and Codes. (*Cheers.*)

Arrangements of this kind have been tried, and have met with success. The policy is, I believe, the right one under the political circumstances which now confront us, and it is less likely in the long run to involve us in trouble and expense than the old policy of punitive expeditions followed by a precipitate and complete withdrawal, a policy which Lord Lytton very aptly described, in a speech delivered in Council, as one of “alternate vengeance and inaction.”

I should like to add this observation that, while I am in favour of maintaining such a sphere of influence as I have described, I would make it as small as possible consistently with the safety of our settled districts, and with the discovery of frontier lines corresponding with the geographical and ethnological features of the country. Within the region thus defined we should carry out the policy thoroughly and in such a manner as to convince the tribes of our intention and ability to give effect to it. (*Cheers.*)

I think the Government of India may fairly take credit to itself for having, during the last two or three years,

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

made some progress in establishing the limits of such a sphere of influence as I have described, and at no part of the frontier has that progress been more satisfactory than at the point where we are brought into contact with the dominions of our ally, the Amir of Afghanistan. (*Loud cheers.*) I venture to claim for the settlement recently effected by Sir Mortimer Durand—a settlement arrived at in the face of difficulties, the extent of which will not be understood until the history of these events comes to be written—a settlement which would, in my opinion, have been beyond our reach, but for the admirable qualities of tact, patience, and sincerity, which he displayed in so conspicuous a degree throughout an extremely delicate negotiation—qualities which won for him the confidence of His Highness—that it has done more to obviate the risk of future misunderstanding both with Afghanistan and with the intervening frontier tribes, and to prevent the recurrence of those “ignoble little wars” to which I referred just now, than any number of successful expeditions, or sanguinary successes over the warlike borderers whom we have fought so often and with such small results.

We can perhaps best form a true idea of the value of such an understanding by considering what have been the consequences of its absence in the past. It is, I believe, no exaggeration to say that the almost ceaseless unrest of the last few years has been due, above all, to our inability to effect a settlement of these frontier questions with His Highness. Until this winter all the conditions were calculated to lead to misconceptions and strained relations. You had, on the one side, the British Government, actuated by a strong desire to secure peace upon its marches, and to keep open the great avenues by which they are traversed, you had, on the other side, an Eastern Ruler, jealous of external influence, conscious of his own strength, the inheritor of a throne to which there have always clung the dim, but glorious traditions of a suzerainty including the

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

whole of the Muhammadan tribes of the Punjab frontier. To give to such a Ruler a kingdom without properly defined boundaries, was to court difficulties and misunderstandings, and we have had a plentiful crop of them. Could we be surprised if, under such circumstances, the tribes, not knowing whether to look to the Amir, or to us, sometimes turned to Kabul, and sometimes to the Punjab Government, or to the Baluchistan Agency? Was it strange that, in the presence of such a state of things, the trade routes were harried, and raids, followed by bootless reprisals, perpetrated upon British territory, or that every troublesome outlaw and intriguing pretender to the Chiefship of a border State should, whenever it suited him to set us at defiance, represent himself as enjoying the special protection of the Ruler of Islam; or was it unnatural that the Amir should regard with a suspicious eye the extension of our railways and the piercing of the great mountain barriers which screened his possessions from our own?

All these heartburnings and jealousies are, I trust, now at an end, and I believe that my successor will find in His Highness the Amir, who has, during the recent negotiations, evinced the strongest desire to arrive at an honorable settlement, and to remove all causes of ill-will between his Government and ours, a firm ally and a friendly neighbour, well content to abide honorably by the contract to which he has lately become a party. (*Cheers.*)

Negotiations as to our Northern Frontier are still in progress between Her Majesty's Government and that of His Majesty the Czar of Russia. It would be obviously improper that I should, while those negotiations are still proceeding, make any announcement as to their probable result. I may, however, say without indiscretion, that I look forward confidently to the establishment of a satisfactory understanding as to the tracts which will, henceforward, fall respectively within the Russian sphere of

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

influence and within our own, and that we have no reason to anticipate that the Russian Government is likely to deal with this important international question in an impracticable spirit. Nor must I forget, before I leave the Northern Frontier of the Empire, to refer to the fact that we have been successful in arriving at a satisfactory settlement with China as to the boundaries of Sikkim and Thibet, and as to the facilities for trade which will, I trust, hereafter considerably increase in value.

Upon the Eastern side of the Indian Empire we have, I am glad to say, also made a considerable advance in this direction. The vast tract lying between Burma, Bengal, and Assam, and usually known as the Chin-Lushai country, is rapidly quieting down. Our military activity in those regions will apparently be restricted this season to the infliction of punishment upon a single recalcitrant village numbering some 50 houses, an operation which will occupy 300 or 400 Military Police, and has, I fancy, been virtually accomplished. Our frontier with Siam has been satisfactorily laid down, while the frontier between our Burmese possessions and the great Empire of China—a frontier extending all the way from the almost unknown valleys of the Upper Irrawaddy down to the southern borders of Yunnan, a distance of 500 miles—will, there is every reason to hope, be settled amicably before long. If you will take into consideration the fact that our Afghan frontier is as long as the whole Western frontier of Russia, from the Baltic to the Black Sea, and that the Burmo-Chinese frontier is about the same length as the whole of the land frontier of Italy, you will be able to form some idea of the magnitude of the task. You will, perhaps, be disposed to agree with me in thinking that its difficulty has not been diminished by the fact that throughout a greater part of these immense distances these newly-settled boundaries traverse regions about which very little is known, and which have never been thoroughly explored, or accurately surveyed.

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

I submit to you that these frontier questions are of vital moment to the commerce of this country, because without a settled frontier there can be no such thing as peace upon our borders, while, without peace, the development of our trans-frontier trade is, of course, out of the question. It may, perhaps, be of interest to you to know that there are already distinct signs of an improvement in the trans-frontier trade of Upper Burma with China,—a trade which was, I believe, at one time very considerable, but which has of recent years dwindled almost to nothing owing to the lawless and uncertain condition of that part of the border. A new market is better worth conquering than a new dependency. (*Cheers.*)

But, Gentlemen, I trust that I shall not be told that the attention which we have given to the fringes and outskirts of the Indian Empire has so much absorbed our thoughts that we have been indifferent to its internal affairs. We should indeed be culpable if this were so, for I believe there never was a time when the internal condition of the country called more urgently for our watchful care. Education is spreading, and with it the restlessness engendered by superficial and imperfect knowledge. Vague aspirations and ambitions are becoming more potent among the educated classes. Amongst the uneducated, the silent cultivators of the soil, who are, as it were, the basis and foundation of our whole social system, increased security of tenure has, I am afraid, in too many cases led to increased indebtedness, with its accompaniments of discomfort and discontent. The means of communication have become infinitely more rapid than of old, the barriers interposed by time and space between one section of the country and another are being effaced, and a wave of excitement now rolls rapidly from place to place, gathering volume as it goes, instead of breaking its force against intervening obstacles. Among all classes there is a growing tendency to question authority, from that of the

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

District Officer to that of the Governor General in Council. On every side new difficulties and new problems are presenting themselves. Nor are they diminished by the habit of applying to a country which is Eastern to the marrow of its bones standards of treatment which are essentially European and Western. (*Loud cheers.*) It is impossible that this should be otherwise. We cannot conceive England governing India as if it were one huge Native State under a British Ruler. (*Cheers.*) The thing is impossible. We cannot turn back. All that we can do when we see inordinately strong doses of Western nostrums poured down Indian throats, is to protest as strongly as we can, and to endeavour, if possible, to stay the tide. (*Hear, hear, and cheers.*)

I will mention one or two illustrations of my meaning. There is a tendency to apply British standards to such questions as the employment of labour in mines, in factories, and in tea-gardens. It is forgotten that an Indian mine is not like an English mine; that an Indian miner is not like a Northumberland or Staffordshire miner, and that his wife and family are used to wholly different conditions from those amidst which an English operative and his family have their existence. It is forgotten that there is a difference between the conditions under which an Indian mill hand does his work, and those under which a Lancashire operative is employed, or, again, between the kind of task which an Indian mill hand has to get through, and the task which would be set him, or which he would set himself, were he employed outside the mill and in the fields. We are apt to lose sight of the fact that, if we attempt too much, we run a serious risk of finding, first, that our precautions are inoperative; secondly, that we are paralysing a young industry by putting its feet into such tight shoes that it is unable to walk, much less to run, in the race with its competitors elsewhere; and, lastly, we forget the political danger of engendering the suspicion,

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

of course quite unfounded, that these acts of interference are due, not to genuine philanthropy, but to a desire to handicap Indian competition with its British rivals. (*Cheers.*)

Another increasing danger seems to me to be that which arises from our tendency to over-govern the country and to interfere unduly with the customs and habits of the people. The thing is, to some extent, inevitable. If our forests are to be preserved from extirpation, we are bound to protect them by regulations which the neighbouring villagers will regard as encroachments upon their privileges. In the same way we must, if our salt revenue is to be maintained, prevent the illicit manufacture of salt, even where it lies at the very doors of the people's houses. If our Abkari revenue is not to disappear, we cannot help resorting to measures which must seem to many inquisitorial and oppressive. The necessity for caution becomes more apparent when we reflect that all measures of this kind have ultimately to be enforced by subordinate officials differing but little from the people whom they have to supervise, and by police paid at very low rates, doing their work out of sight in extremely remote places, and probably neither more nor less virtuous or incorruptible, or particular as to their modes of procedure, than badly paid police in other parts of the world. We shall be fortunate if we are not driven still further along these paths and compelled to add to the restrictions already imposed upon the liberty of the Indian subject. I believe the people of this country recognise the advantages of our rule and are ready to acquiesce in it; but if they come to associate it with inquisitorial prying into their private affairs and with exaction or oppression, in one shape or another, their affection for it will be of short duration.

Another danger, again, and I am not sure that it is not the greatest of all, seems to me to lie in the tendency to transfer power from the Government of India to the British

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

Parliament. (*The speaker was interrupted at this point for some time by enthusiastic cheering.*) I admit that in a country of democratic institutions, Parliament must be the ultimate source and depository of power. In an extreme case, there is no act of the Executive, British or Indian, which can be removed beyond its control. The Viceroy and the Secretary of State have, alike, to reckon with it, and there is no escape from its authority. It does not, however, follow that because these powers are inherent in Parliament they should be perpetually exercised by it; and it is the modern tendency to exercise those powers continually, and at the instance of irresponsible persons, which in my belief constitutes a grave menace to the safety of the Empire. (*Loud and continued cheers.*) I suppose all students of political science will admit that the tendency of the Legislature to usurp the functions of the Executive Government is one of the most dangerous tendencies of the present age. It is specially dangerous when the subject of those usurpations is the Government of such a dependency of the Crown as the Indian Empire, and when the policy of a body, which is admittedly a body of experts, is liable at any moment to be thwarted and set aside by another body which must, in the nature of things, be deficient in expert knowledge, and which, in recent years, has shown a constantly increasing tendency to be swayed by emotion and enthusiasm. The risk is all the greater, because while the machinery of the Indian Government grinds slowly and laboriously, the Parliamentary machine is excessively rapid in action. We out here cannot take an important step without a protracted series of inquiries and investigations. The different Departments of the Government have to be consulted. Minute and exhaustive notes have to be recorded. The Local Governments have to be referred to. More notes are written upon their recommendations. The Secretary of State's concurrence has to be obtained. Months pass by, and when the

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

answer of Her Majesty's Government arrives, the process of note-writing commences again. The delay seems to be interminable, although perhaps it is not without its advantages. But, in the House of Commons, an erratic Member in a thin House may carry over the heads of the Secretary of State, and of the Government of India, a Resolution vitally affecting the welfare of this country, as summarily and as light-heartedly as if the proceedings were those of the Debating Club of a College, rather than the Senate of a great Empire. In a couple of hours the work of years may be undone, and so it may come to pass that while we are slowly and laboriously striving to obtain an equilibrium between income and expenditure, or endeavouring to improve the condition of our Indian Service, some haphazard decision of our masters on the other side threatens our finances with bankruptcy, or capsizes our most carefully considered schemes for improving the efficiency of the Public Services. The wrong thing is done, and it is done in a manner that cannot fail to impair the authority of a Government which can carry on its work only if its authority is upheld. (*Loud and continued cheers.*)

I should not be doing my duty if I did not refer to another symptom which seems to me to be alarming, and to deserve our earnest attention. I refer to the increased bitterness of feeling manifested between the two great religious denominations.

The policy of the Government of India in these matters has been one of strict neutrality, and of sympathy with that side, whether it be Hindu or Muhammadan, which desires to observe its customary ritual, and expects to be allowed to do so in peace. I have lately spoken at length upon this subject, and I will not pursue it now. The whole question has been very thoroughly examined, and our mature conclusions will be submitted to my successor. I feel sure that nothing will be done rashly, or under the influ-

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

ence of panic. I should strongly deprecate any extensive or radical changes in the law until it has been demonstrated that the existing law is powerless to deal with these evils. I would infinitely prefer to rely upon the good sense and moderation of the people themselves and upon vigorous and determined executive action, based upon the law as it now exists, than upon special legislation, and I am not without hopes that both sides have now realized the folly of their conduct, and will join us, in discouraging similar exhibitions of sectional hatred and lawlessness.

I have dwelt upon all these things, not because I am by nature a pessimist, but because we cannot, and ought not to shut our eyes to them, and because they should be borne in mind when proposals are made either to relax our precautions against danger from within and from without, or to adopt well-meant measures calculated to irritate the people and to alienate their sympathies from us, or to weaken the Executive Government.

There are, fortunately, many elements of security which may be set upon the other side of the account. The great body of the people know that they are enjoying under our rule a measure of prosperity greater than would have fallen to their lot if they had been left to themselves. Their taxation is light, they are free from arbitrary exactions, they are better protected from scarcity than they have ever been, and they are obtaining an increasing share both in the local and in the general government of the country. In all the more important cities municipal affairs are largely entrusted to the management of the people themselves. In the Public Services all but a small minority of the Government servants are recruited in this country.

To that small minority are entrusted charges 700 or 800 in number, averaging over 1,000 square miles in extent, and containing, on an average, over a quarter of a million of people, charges, in point of population, equal in size to

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

one of the smaller Australian Colonies, while a single Indian Commissionership, such as that presided over by Mr. Westmacott, contains more than double the population of the whole of Australasia, and considerably more than any of the minor European States. (*Hear, hear.*) The great dominion of Canada, in which I had, for nearly five years, the honor of representing Her Majesty, contains less than one-third of the population of the Patna Division.

Even in regard to this infinitesimally small cadre, we have shown a desire to meet the aspirations of the Queen's Indian subjects in the most liberal and generous spirit, and to associate them with ourselves in public employment. At this moment one-sixth of the small number of higher appointments is reserved for members of the Provincial Service, while a certain number of the Natives of India obtain a share of the remaining five-sixths by passing the necessary examinations in England.

In another direction we have shown our desire to bring the administration of the country into closer touch with non-official opinion—I refer to the measure passed in 1892 by the British Parliament, at the instance of the Government of India, for the reform of the Indian Legislative Councils.

I have more than once spoken upon the subject of this important measure. It is one in which I feel a special interest, for it differed considerably from that which had been sketched by my predecessor, Lord Dufferin, shortly before his departure from India.

I believe it to be impossible to over-rate the importance of infusing new life into these Councils, both by enlarging their functions, and by so modifying their constitution as to include within them a certain number of members owing their appointment to the recommendation of other bodies rather than to nomination by the Government. The Calcutta Chamber of Commerce has now the recognized right of sending a representative to the Viceroy's Council

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

There is no part of the scheme for which I have a greater personal responsibility than that in which this principle has been admitted. We have now a system under which the Provincial Legislatures will be brought far more closely than heretofore into contact with local opinion, and under which again the unofficial opinion of the local Legislatures is more closely reflected in the Imperial Council.

It may be said that, by this change, we have greatly increased the work already thrown upon the Government of India and the Local Governments, and that we are threatened with the prospect of irrelevant discussion and of the inconvenient criticism of Government measures. In these days, however, when public opinion is allowed so large a measure of liberty in expressing itself, we cannot expect to escape discussion and criticism. If the discussion is reasonable and the criticism honest, we shall welcome it, but I hold strongly that it is better for all concerned that the critics should be responsible, and should offer their criticism in the Councils of their provinces, or in the Council of the Viceroy, where it can be met and replied to, and not elsewhere, where it cannot. In a country with a population of 300 millions, living under external rule, it is idle to expect that grievances will not arise, and that dissatisfaction will not be exhibited. The best way of meeting it is to afford it a legitimate opportunity of making itself heard.

I cannot resist expressing my hope that, now that this opportunity has been provided, the Councils will be regarded as the proper place in which to bring forward, and in a manner befitting the occasion, complaints which are now preferred, sometimes with a good deal of recklessness through other channels.

I believe it will also be found to be the case that the opinions expressed in Council by the elected Members will be of very great value in strengthening the hands of the Government in cases—and we know that such cases exist

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

—where Indian interests might otherwise not obtain the consideration to which they are entitled. This consideration is one which applies with special force where commercial interests are involved.

And now, Gentlemen, it remains for me to thank you once more for your kindness. In a few hours I shall transfer to my successor the responsibilities of the high office which have for the last five years been committed to my charge by Her Majesty. I rejoice to think that those responsibilities will devolve upon one so qualified to bear them as Lord Elgin. He is, to begin with, the son of his father, and I have always held that, particularly in India, that qualification is by no means, to be despised when the father happens to be one who deserved well of his country. But that, Gentlemen, is, by no means, Lord Elgin's only title to our confidence. The new Viceroy has, from the time when he left the college at which we were both educated, made for himself a reputation for strong common sense, sobriety of judgment, and business aptitude of no ordinary character. In these days of political excitement we are too apt to think that only those public men are entitled to our recognition who have posed before the public as professional athletes in the political arena, and added largely to the yearly swelling flood of platform eloquence. I hold strongly that it is not only among the number of these that strong administrators and wise rulers of men are to be found, and Lord Elgin has, I have good reason to know, more than satisfied those with whom he has been concerned in public and private life of his fitness for the distinguished post which he is about to assume. (*Cheers.*)

For myself, Gentlemen, you will forgive me if I say that an Indian Viceroy regards the close of his term of office with somewhat mixed feelings. Upon the one hand, is the desire to lay down a heavy burden,—a burden which I have borne for a longer period of time than most of my

Dinner at the Royal Exchange.

predecessors—to return to friends and children, and all that is embraced within the significance of the word ‘home’; on the other hand, is the feeling that an eventful chapter of his life is closed, and can never be re-opened, that more might have been achieved, that much has been done which might have been better done, or done differently; but, throughout all, there runs a keen sense of regret at parting from all those whose friendship he has enjoyed during the past five years, and with almost all of whom he has worked, for we are all workers here. No Viceroy has had more reason to feel such a regret than I. (*Cheers.*) From the heads of the local Governments with whom I have been in constant correspondence throughout my term of office, I have received unvarying support and much useful assistance. I have had colleagues and advisers who were not only able and experienced, but loyal and considerate, and who have never spared themselves in their endeavour to make my task easy. Nor have I been less fortunate outside the circle of my official acquaintance. And it is, indeed, at such a moment as this, a mitigation of my regret to know that those who have watched my career give me, at all events, credit for having honestly striven to do my best. (*Loud cheers.*) I may say, without affectation, that, if I am to be parted from you a few days hence, my thoughts and sympathies will remain with this great dependency of the Crown and its people, and that for me, while I live, India will mean something quite different to what it would have meant had I never represented the Queen here. If, in years to come, I can, by word or deed, serve your interests, it will be a pleasure to me to feel that the experience of the last five years has not been entirely thrown away, and that I am still able, even in the humblest capacity, to bear my part with those who, here upon the spot, whether as men of business, or as soldiers, or as officials, are strengthening and building up the glorious fabric of the Indian Empire.

[His Excellency resumed his seat amid loud and enthusiastic cheering.]

ADDRESS FROM THE MAHOMEDAN LITERARY SOCIETY.

24th Jan. 1894. [A numerous attended deputation of the Mahomedan Literary Society waited upon the Viceroy at Government House, at noon, on Wednesday, the 24th January, and presented him with a farewell address. The address, which was read by Mr. Abdur Rahman, Secretary of the Society, congratulated His Excellency on being able to hand over the Government to his successor "free from the burden of foreign wars, or domestic embarrassments." It thanked the Viceroy for his recognition of the Society's efforts to promote education amongst Mahomedans,—(which had greatly progressed, particularly in the matter of higher training and moral discipline)—as well as a kindly feeling amongst the various communities by its annual conversaziones, and for his sympathy with them in the loss they had sustained by the death of their late Founder and Secretary, Nawab Abdul Latif. The address warmly approved of His Excellency's policy with regard to the currency question, and to the recent anti-kine killing agitation, to frontier affairs (especially the recent settlement with the Amir) and to the Native States. It concluded by an expression of the warm acknowledgments of the Mahomedan community to Lady Lansdowne for her labours in connection with the Countess of Dufferin's Fund.

His Excellency replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—I am grateful to you for the courteous words in which you have been good enough to bid me farewell on behalf of the Mahomedan Literary Society of Calcutta. During the last five years my relations with the Society have been of the most friendly character. I have been glad to give it any recognition which it was in my power to give, both on account of the importance which I attach to the principles upon which it is founded, and also on account of my sympathy and regard for many of its Members, with whom I have had the honour of being personally acquainted.

Conspicuous amongst them was your late Founder and Secretary, Nawab Bahadur Abdul Latif, to whom you have referred in such feeling terms, and who has, alas, lately been taken from you. Let me take this opportunity of

Address from the Mahomedan Literary Society.

noticing the remarkable demonstration of public feeling evoked by his death, and the manner in which testimony was borne to his many admirable qualities, not only by persons of his own faith, but by conspicuous representatives of almost every class and creed. Nawab Abdul Latif owed his position not only to his official services, or to his connection with numerous public bodies, or to the distinctions and decorations which had been bestowed upon him, but to the fact that he devoted his life to the promotion of two great principles, the encouragement of education amongst his Mahomedan fellow subjects, and the promotion of confidence and good-will between those who professed his own religion and their Hindu and European neighbours. He recognised that we are, all of us, alike interested in advancing the prosperity of this great Empire, and in securing its good government. In these days, when strained relations have, as you have reminded me in your address, unfortunately arisen in many parts of India between Hindus and Mahomedans, too much importance cannot be attached to the services of men who, like the late Nawab, throughout their lives, inculcated upon us the value of harmonious action and mutual good-will. It is most satisfactory to me to learn that your Society regards with approbation what I have said in public upon this most important subject.

Gentlemen,—I rejoice to learn that you are able to call my attention to the progress made by your Mahomedan fellow-subjects in the higher branches of education, and to the improvement which has taken place in the better moral discipline of your students. I trust that you will continue to direct your efforts to the accomplishment of these useful objects. Although much has been done, a more determined effort than has yet been made is, I believe, necessary, if the education and moral training of the Mahomedan youths of India is to be raised to the proper level.

Address from the Mahomedan Literary Society.

Gentlemen,—I will not detain you by touching on other questions of political interest, to which I have had an opportunity of referring elsewhere. I will content myself by taking note of your statement that the important and much controverted measure of Currency reform, for which the past year will be memorable, was conceived in the interest of India, and I share your hope that it may in the end have the effect which you anticipate for it, namely the restoration of this country to its proper place amongst the great trading communities of the world.

I am grateful for your congratulations upon the success which has been achieved in the settlement of the delicate and important questions which had arisen between the Government of India and His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan.

I desire also to express my appreciation of your comments upon the action of the Government of India in dealing with Kashmir and Kelat. While the Government of India is averse to needlessly interfering with the affairs of such States, and while it recognises that we cannot expect them to be administered entirely in accordance with our ideas of good government, we realise fully that our obligation to protect them and their rulers involves a correlative obligation, that of protecting their subjects from the worst kind of abuse and misgovernment. Where we have been reluctantly forced to intervene, either for the purpose of punishing misdeeds, or of insisting upon reforms, we have been careful to avoid any infringement of the rights of the State concerned, and to resist the temptation of securing a gain to ourselves at its expense. I rejoice to think that our action in such cases has had the effect of leading those whom you represent to feel increased confidence in the justice and moderation of the British Government.

Lady Lansdowne desires me to thank you for the manner in which you have acknowledged her efforts to carry on

Address from the Sikh Community.

the useful work initiated by Lady Dufferin for the medical relief of the women of India. Her Excellency greatly values your good-wishes and heartily returns them.

It remains for me to thank you once more for the manner in which you have addressed me, and to assure you that, although my official connection with this country will be terminated in a few hours, I shall never cease to feel for it sentiments of the utmost sympathy and good-will.

ADDRESS FROM THE SIKH COMMUNITY.

[A deputation of the Khalsa Dewan, a representative Association of the Sikhs, headed by Sardar Sir Atar Singh, K.C.I.E., waited on His Excellency the Viceroy at Government House, on Wednesday, the 24th January, with an address of farewell on behalf of the whole Sikh community. Sardar Sir Atar Singh presented, and Sardar Prem Singh, of the Hyderabad Imperial Service Troops, read the address, which was very loyal in sentiment and dealt with various matters at considerable length. His Excellency replied to it as follows:—]

It has given me great pleasure to receive, on the eve of my departure, an address from the Khalsa Dewan, the recognised exponent of the views of the Sikh community, and the pleasure is not a little increased by the fact that the address is presented to me by my esteemed friend, Sardar Sir Atar Singh.

The Sikhs have, as you mention in your address, played a part of much importance in the history of India. They have justly earned by their high military and moral qualities a reputation recognised throughout the whole of the dominions of the Queen-Empress. Wherever the noble qualities of courage and fidelity find scope for their display, there the Sikh is to be found maintaining the glorious traditions of his people. I have, during my Viceroyalty, had many opportunities of observing the high esteem which is enjoyed by your race. You have at this moment soldiers

Address from the Sikh Community.

of your nation serving not only in India, but in many remote parts of the Empire. During my recent visit to Burma, it gave me much pleasure to recognise the stalwart and martial mien of the Sikhs in no inconsiderable numbers among the troops which I inspected, and the escorts which accompanied me. Your brethren are serving the Queen-Empress in the centre of Africa, and in the British possessions in China, and I am proud to have one of your distinguished officers on my personal staff.

But a nation cannot consist of soldiers alone, and it is essential to devote attention to the arts of peace and to the development of those pursuits upon which the material prosperity of the community depends.

I have watched with a sympathetic interest the efforts of the Khalsa Dewan to forward these aims, and it is a source of great satisfaction to me that your Association, with the liberal aid of the Phulkian Princes and other Chiefs and Nobles of the Punjab, has, during the period of my Viceroyalty, initiated and developed the scheme for the Khalsa College, of which the foundation-stone was laid by Sir James Lyall three years ago.

I entertain a hope that this institution will provide means for the sound and useful education of your sons, and I take this opportunity of impressing upon you that there is but a very small field open in India to young men with a mere literary education, and that, in my opinion, you are very well advised in declaring in your address that technical education is a requisite of importance, and I would add that moral and physical education should not be neglected.

You speak of the continual decrease of the Sikh population. I am concerned to hear that you are under the impression that your numbers are diminishing. It is no doubt the fact that a decrease has taken place in certain localities, but I find by the results of the last Census that there has been an increase of 2·12 per cent. since 1881 in

Address from the Talukdars of Oudh.

the Sikh community. It is true that this number compares unfavourably with the average increase of the whole population, which amounts in the ten years to nearly 11 per cent., but it must not be forgotten that the Sikhs have colonies in other countries whose numbers are not reckoned in the Census.

Your representations as to the employment of Sikhs in the service of the Government have already been answered by the late Lieutenant-Governor, and I trust that the number of qualified candidates may steadily increase under the influence of the Khalsa College.

Let me assure you that I shall always take an interest in your welfare, and when an opportunity presents itself, I shall have great pleasure in informing Her Majesty the Queen-Empress of the progress made by her brave, loyal, and faithful Sikh subjects.

In conclusion, I beg of you to accept the thanks of myself and Lady Lansdowne for the good wishes which you have expressed for our health and prosperity.

ADDRESS FROM THE TALUQDARS OF OUDH.

[A large and representative deputation of the Taluqdars of Oudh waited upon the Viceroy, on Wednesday, the 24th January, with a farewell address. The Deputation was headed by the Hon'ble Maharaja Partab Narain Singh of Ajudhia (Oudh), Member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council, who read the address, which was as follows:—

“ We, the Talukdars of Oudh, represented by the deputation who now have approached your Excellency, desire to express the regret we cannot but feel, that the time has arrived when we must take leave of a ruler whose single-minded devotion to duty and earnestness in the cause of India, must give him a high place amongst those illustrious men who have ruled over our country.

“ It is not for us to criticise the details of an administration which will ever be considered one of the most important in the annals of British rule in this country, for these details involve problems of

Address from the Talukdars of Oudh.

policy and government as serious and complex as any which could engage the consideration of a statesman, and which besides are in process of being worked out to produce practical results. We feel we should only weary your Excellency without advancing the objects for which you have so strenuously laboured if we were now to give expression to our views upon matters which have not yet passed out of the range of controversy. Your attitude towards the feudatories of the Empire, your policy on industrial questions, your assertion of toleration, your consideration of the unceasingly difficult questions connected with land, have all shown that you have uniformly striven to be just and to work for the benefit of the people of India and the furtherance of the interests and prosperity of our country.

"But, your Excellency, while we may not criticise, we may, and we do, sympathise with the courage which has never faltered before anxieties and that noble sense of duty which has consistently marked your conduct and your actions. Coming at a period of crisis when men's minds are full of the struggle between the new requirements of India and the old experiences of her people, it is not possible that your Excellency should completely settle the many most serious and most disputed problems presented to your administration. But you have done much to make their solution more easy for your successors, and you have won from the people of India that trust and affectionate regard they never fail to award to those whom they recognise as their honest and true, their faithful and sincere friends.

"Your Excellency has come through a time of exceptional trial and unceasing anxieties, but in the rest which you have so nobly earned in your own country and your own home, it will, we hope, be a satisfaction to you to know that you carry with you the earnest sympathies of the people over whom you have ruled, and their prayers and wishes for your continued life, health, and increase in honour and usefulness in the service of our beloved Sovereign, who has never had a more conscientious or devoted servant than yourself."

His Excellency replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—It gives me much pleasure to receive the address which you have read to me on behalf of the Talukdars of Oudh, a body for which I entertain feelings of very sincere regard and respect.

It is most satisfactory to me to learn that, in the opinion of the Talukdars, my conduct as head of the Government of India has deserved their confidence and approbation.

Address from the Talukdars of Oudh.

Your address refers with much point to the struggle which is in progress between the new requirements of India and the old experiences of her people. I trust that the Government of India will, while endeavouring to meet those requirements, never allow themselves to lose sight of the importance which is to be attached to custom and tradition in a country where the spirit of the people is in many respects conservative.

I regret that it should not have been my good fortune to spend a larger portion of my term of office in your Province, but rejoice to know that it is committed to the charge of the tried and able administrator who now presides over it, and who has, both as a member of my Council, and as the head of the Local Government in the important Province of Burma, shown his ability to deal with the most intricate problems, and his courage in the face of grave difficulties.

It gives me much satisfaction to notice your approval of the manner in which the Indian States have been dealt with during my term of office. It has been my endeavour to support the Chiefs and Rulers, and to give them all the encouragement in my power, subject only to the condition that they do not neglect or abuse their position.

I am most grateful for your sympathy and good wishes, and I beg that you will not fail to convey to the body, which has deputed you to come here, my cordial acknowledgments of the courtesy which they have shown me.

DINNER AT BELVEDERE.

24th Jan. 1894.

(On Wednesday evening, the 24th January, the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne were entertained at dinner at Belvedere by the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal and Lady Elliott. On this occasion, Calcutta, as distinguished from Simla society, was more especially represented. After dinner Sir Charles Elliott proposed Their Excellencies' health as follows :—)

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It will be the general feeling of all assembled here to do honour to Lord and Lady Lansdowne that we could not let them go without the formal ceremony of drinking their health, but His Excellency has had his strength so overtaxed of late that we would not willingly add to his burden by much oratory, even if we did not know how many speeches he has had to make in the last few days. I propose, therefore, to use very few words on this occasion, and I shall avoid all public and political subjects, and speak only on your behalf as a party of private friends assembled to drink the toast of the evening, and to express the feeling of sorrow and pain with which Calcutta bids farewell to Lord and Lady Lansdowne.

You will have observed, no doubt, that we have invited to-night no one but those who are residents of Calcutta, and that one important section of society now in the place is unrepresented, *viz.*, the visitors from Simla. This we have done, not out of the old feeling of jealousy which Calcutta is supposed to bear to Simla, but because our Simla friends have already had opportunities of expressing their feelings at parting with their Excellencies, and right well they have used those opportunities. I will not indeed say that that old jealousy has died out ; on the contrary I believe it exists still and has good reason for its existence. In old days when I went to Simla myself, I used to wonder why Calcutta, which goes to Darjeeling or to England in such large numbers, should grudge us our summer quarters in Simla ; but I think I understand the reason

Dinner at Belvedere.

now. It was not so much a dislike of the annual migration to the hills as dislike of the thought that Lord and Lady Lansdowne should leave Calcutta at all. Indeed, I think it may be truly said that no Viceroy and Vicereine have ever endeared themselves so much to Calcutta as these have done. In Lord Lansdowne we have seen one who, while on State occasions, could amply fill the position of a great nobleman and of the Queen's Representative, yet on private occasions loved to come among us and take a share in our social life and daily amusements as an honoured guest and a private friend. As to Lady Lansdowne, surely never alighted on the soil of Calcutta a more delightful vision than she presented when she first arrived among us, and has presented ever since. How often have we seen the timid *débutante* enter the drawing-room with faltering steps, but look up and gather courage as she caught what Petrarch calls the "*lampeggiar dell angelico riso*,"—"the flash of the angelic smile"—which met her in return for her courtesy, and showed her that the gracious Lady on the throne had a warm and kindly interest in her. How many of us present here, and of our friends, will long remember that the magnetic influence and sympathetic charm of Lady Lansdowne have made us feel at home even in the splendour of the stately marble hall of Government House.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—Five years is a long period in people's lives, and five years spent in India form a period which to many has been filled with vicissitudes and distresses.

I am referring now not so much to political difficulties or public disasters, though the possibility of these in such a country as this must be ever present to our mind, as to private calamities which may easily overtake the family circle. We are thankful that no such troubles have befallen their Excellencies, that no serious illness has happened to them, and that when they look back to their

Dinner at Belvedere.

tenure of office, no spot in India will be to them a centre of sad memories.

I ask all to drink their health in this farewell toast with that genuine enthusiasm which I know exists in all your minds; to wish them a prosperous voyage, a happy return to the home they love, and a life of honour and distinction in the old country. We can promise them that they will long be remembered here with respectful affection and regret. We are proud to think that they also feel regret at leaving us, that they have found sincere and lasting friendships here, and that they will be able to tell the people of England that the Anglo-Indian community are heartily loyal to the Queen and the Government, and that they lead a life, not of idleness, or selfish greed, or oppression of the nation, but devoted, officials and non-officials alike, to strenuous work and to the improvement and progress of the country and its people.

With these words, which briefly and ineffectually represent the feelings in our hearts, I call on you to drink the health of the Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne.

His Excellency replied as follows:—

Your Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen,—Some of the guests, whom His Honor has asked to meet us must, I am afraid, be growing weary of the sound of my voice. I feel that my case may seem to you like that of an actor who does not know when to retire from the stage, and who, after he has taken his benefit, cannot resist the temptation of making one more appearance upon the boards. But if I were to make any number of farewell speeches, I should still leave unsaid much that is in my heart and Lady Lansdowne's, for on such occasions as these there are many words which must remain unspoken to the last. It is the things we feel rather than the things we say which really bind together those who bid farewell and those to whom farewell is bidden. I cannot thank Sir Charles Elliott sufficiently for the generous and friendly

Dinner at Belvedere.

words in which he has proposed the toast of our health. We shall preserve the pleasantest recollections of Belvedere and of its occupants, of the graceful hostess, always bright, kindly and hospitable, who has so often and so cordially welcomed us. Sir Charles himself has been my colleague in Council during the first years of my term of office, and we have had many a hard hour's work together as well as many a climb side by side on the steep hill sides of Simla. At this moment he is the head of a local Government with which the Government of India is constantly in contact—a local Government the chief of which fills, I sometimes think, the most arduous and difficult post in the public service. I feel, now that I am setting my face homewards for a quiet haven of rest, as if I were deserting an old comrade in arms, and leaving him to face alone the hurlyburly of Indian political life, in which we have so often stood shoulder to shoulder.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—Those of us who have not forgotten the old books which we used to read at school, will remember that there was once a time when, if the death struggle of some poor mortal was too painful and too prolonged, the gods above sent down from heaven in their mercy a winged messenger to put an end to his sufferings. In my case the messenger of the gods is very near at hand. In our fancy we can almost hear the fall of his footsteps as he ascends the broad stairs of Government House. In a few hours all will be over, and it is therefore fitting that, in these closing moments of my official life, I should bid you all good-bye, and thank you yet once again for the happiness which you have given us while that life lasted.

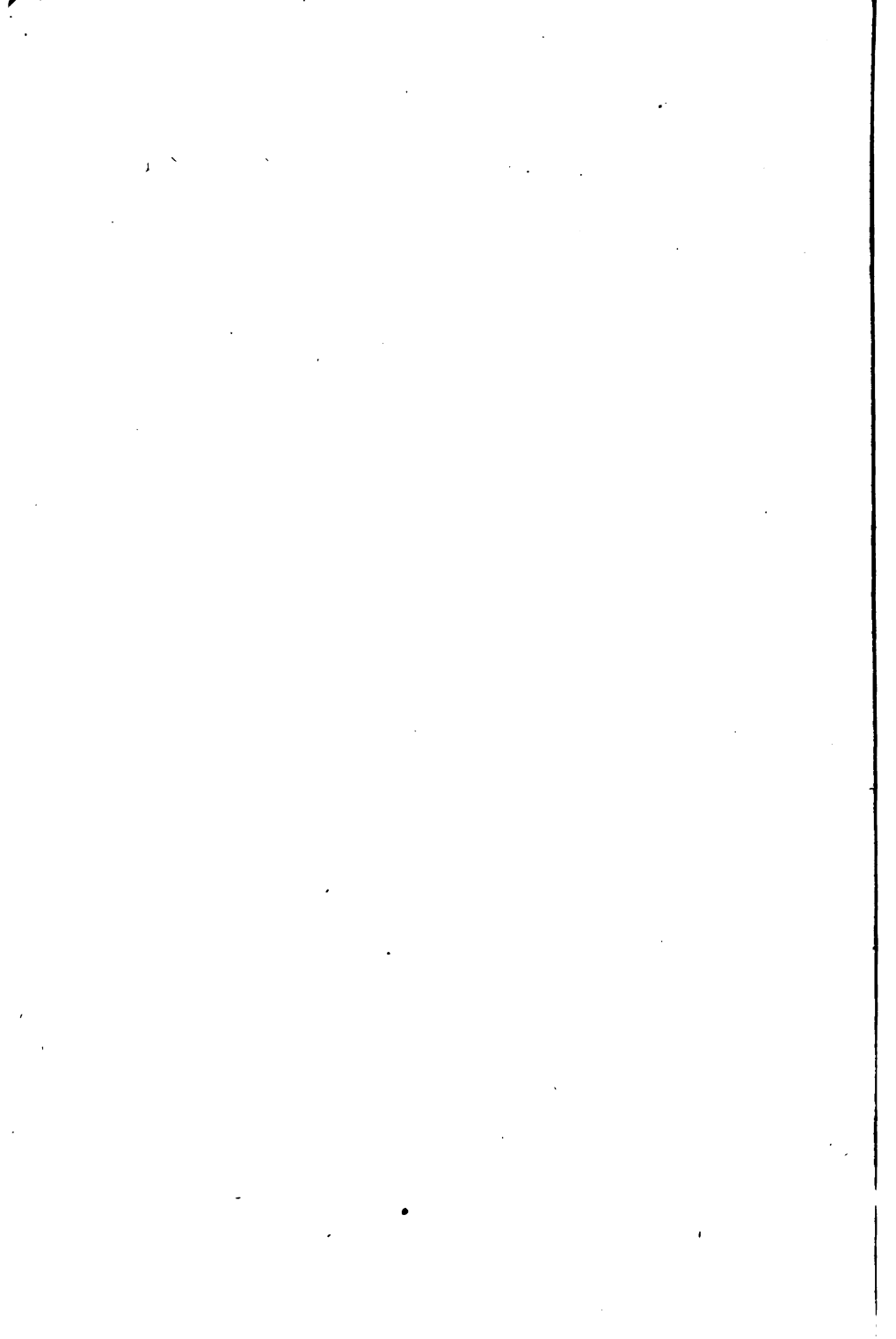
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

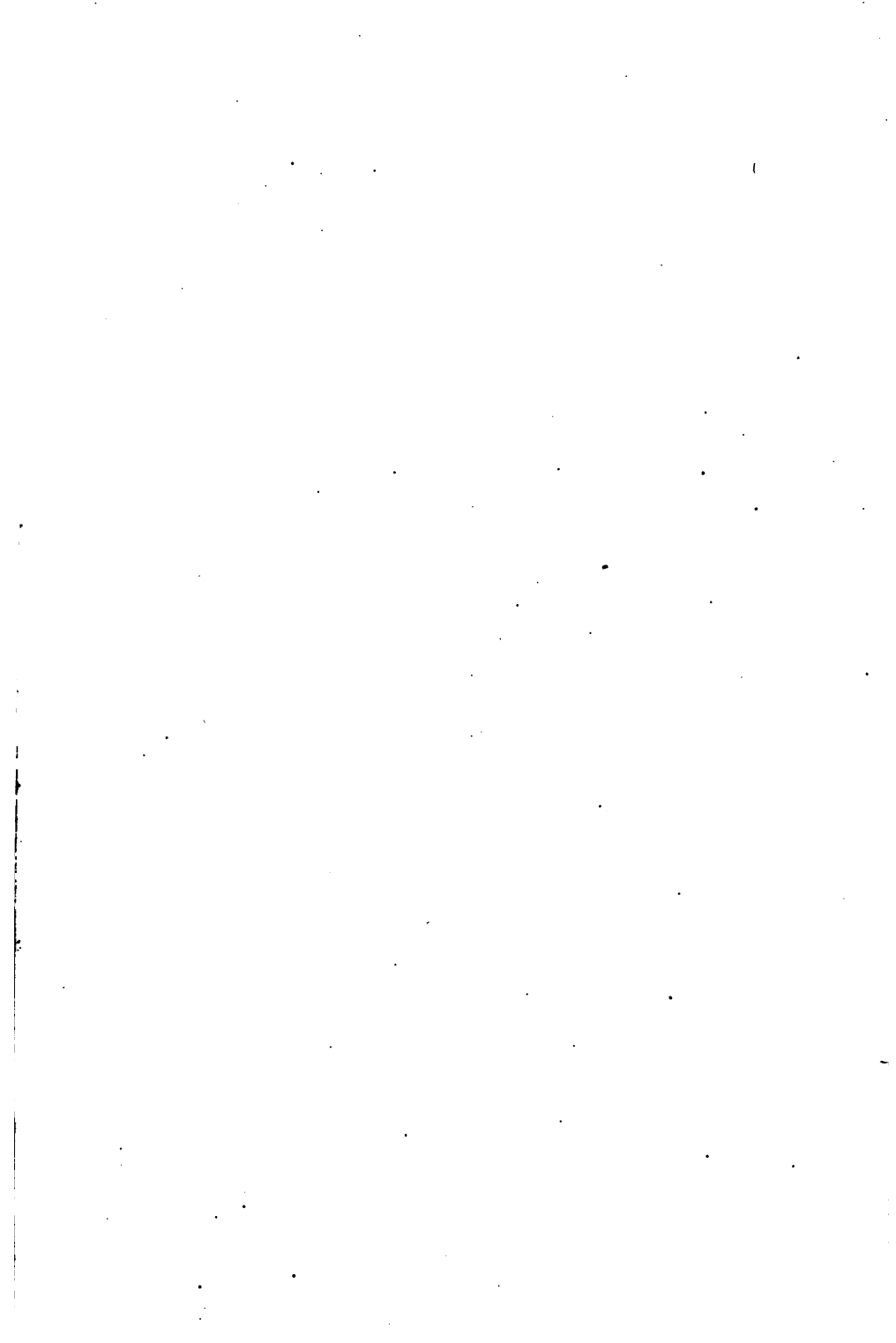
25th Jan. 1894. [The Legislative Council met at Government House, Calcutta, for the transaction of business at 11 A. M., on Thursday morning, the 25th January. At the close of the proceedings, His Excellency the President addressed the Council as follows :—]

It is proposed that the Council should meet again this day week. When that time comes I shall no longer have the right of presiding over your deliberations. This chair will be filled by my successor, sitting face to face with the portrait of his illustrious father, the inheritor of a distinguished name, to which there is every reason to believe that he will add yet further distinction. I cannot allow the Hon'ble Members of this Council to separate to-day without expressing to them my thanks for the personal consideration with which they have always treated me both in and out of this room ; and I say this, not only with reference to those who are here to-day, some of whom are taking part in our proceedings for the first time, but with reference to all those gentlemen who, during the last five years, have had a seat in the Legislative Council.

I part from the Council with feelings of great regret and of sincere respect and regard for its Members. I earnestly trust that this Council, strengthened as it has lately been by the extension of its functions, and by the addition to its ranks of a larger number, of representative members, some of whom will owe their presence to the recommendation of their fellow-citizens, will enjoy an ever-increasing share of public confidence, that it will conduct its deliberations with wisdom, dignity, and moderation, and that it will prove to be a new source of stability and usefulness to the institutions of this country. I feel sure that Lord Elgin will receive from the Members of this Council the same assistance and the same courtesy which the Council has never failed to extend to me.

Gentlemen, I bid you farewell.





14 DAY USE
RETURN TO DESK FROM WHICH BORROWED
LOAN DEPT.

This book is due on the last date stamped below,
or on the date to which renewed. Renewals only:
Tel. No. 642-3405
Renewals may be made 4 days prior to date due.
Renewed books are subject to immediate recall.

UCLA
INTERLIBRARY LOAN

THREE WEEKS AFTER RECEIPT
NON-RENEWABLE

6273

DEC 22 1971

UCLA
INTERLIBRARY LOAN

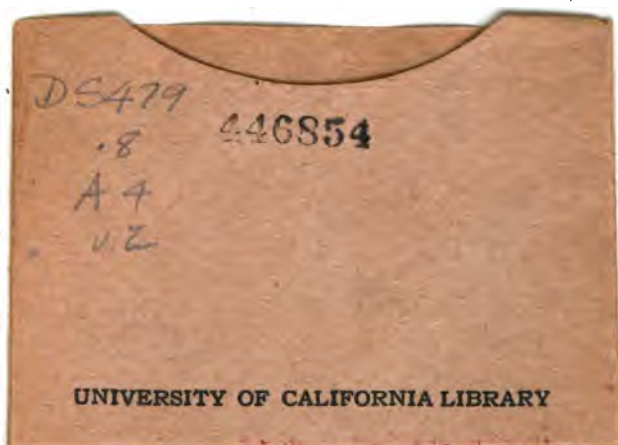
THREE WEEKS AFTER RECEIPT
NON-RENEWABLE

7863

MAY 23 1972

LD21A-40m-8,'71
(P6572s10)476-A-32

General Library
University of California
Berkeley



SPEECHES

BY

THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE,

VICEROY AND GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA.

VOL. II.

1891—1894.



CALCUTTA:

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING, INDIA.

1894.